

BERESFORD
OF
BERESFORD

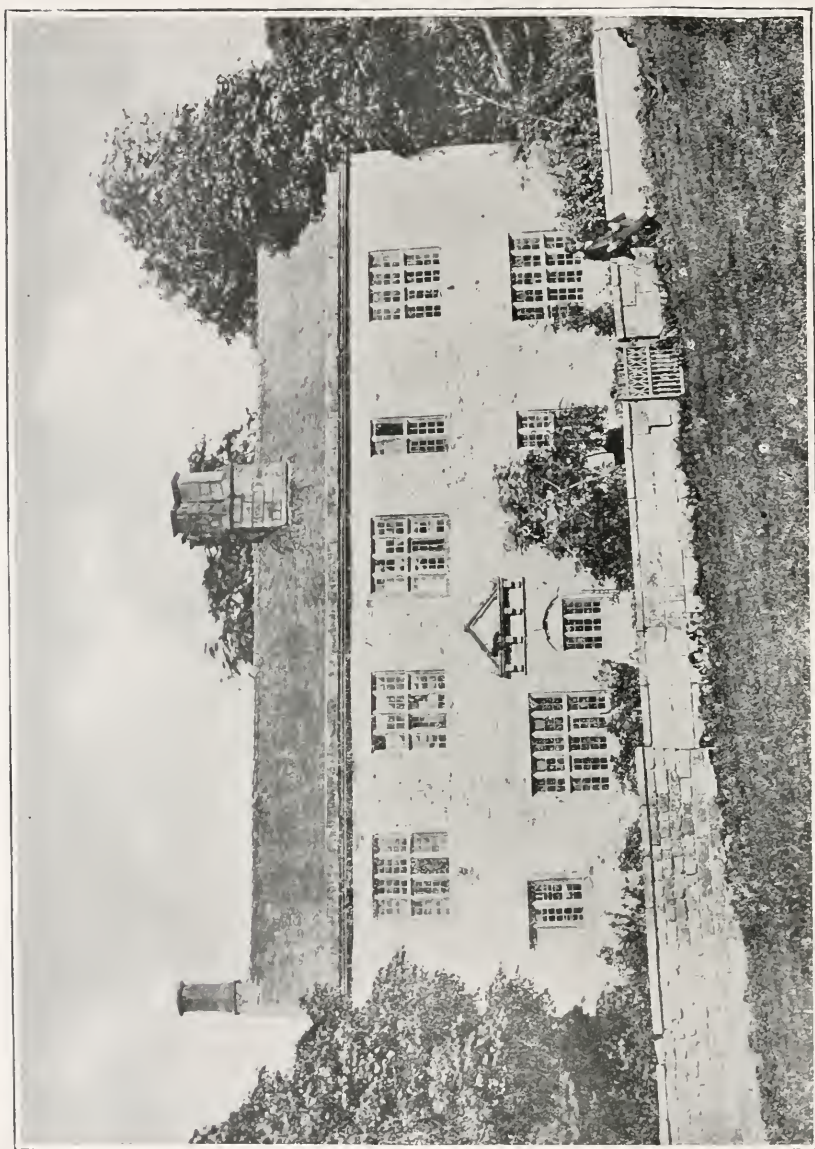
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A HISTORY
OF THE
MANOR OF BERESFORD.



BERESFORD HALL IN 1856, BEFORE ITS DEMOLITION.

BERESFORD of BERESFORD.

Part 1.

A HISTORY

OF THE

MANOR OF BERESFORD,

IN THE COUNTY OF STAFFORD,

BY

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

More than forty years ago the writer published in *The Reliquary* a series of papers on "The Northern Borders of Staffordshire." These included Buglawton, Bosley, Gawsworth, Wincle, and Macclesfield Forest in Cheshire, and the Moors and Moorlanders, Flash, Bald Stone, and Longnor, in Staffordshire. (See *Saturday Review*, September 22, 1866.) Portions of them have since been copied, *e.g.*, in the Rev. W. Sutcliffe's *Bosley*, and in the late Sir P. L. Brocklehurst's *Swythamley*; and extracts, reappearing for weeks in a Buxton paper, brought Lud Church into notice. The present work on BERESFORD simply takes up the story of the Staffordshire Border where it was left, so long ago. The writer, however, has not only had the personal refreshment of turning from his clerical duties to this local history, but has also had the help of other members of the Beresford family, the present work being, indeed, designed as an introduction to a History of the several branches of the family. For this purpose very extensive collections have been made which are now in the writer's hands, and he hopes, that if the present volume be fairly welcomed, he may be spared to go on in Part II. with the story of the branches, in the company of the Rev. E. A. Beresford, restored to his usual health. A third part has been already published, and a few copies of it still may be had.

We may explain here that the letters "H. S. C.," so frequently used in this little book, are an abbreviated expression of the many volumes in the old and new series of the "*Collections for a History of Staffordshire*," published by the William Salt Archæological Society, and which consist largely of the learned and unique contributions of General the Hon. G. Wrottesley, to whom the writer is also greatly indebted for criticisms and information privately given.

Some years ago, at the suggestion of the Rev. E. A. Beresford, a short Preliminary Sketch of the history of the family by the present writer was circulated amongst its members. In this the Audleys were looked upon as the principal landlords of Alstonfield, representing as they did the second daughter of the last Baron of Malbanc, who died in 1220. But her elder and younger sisters were also her coparceners; and as the elder acted as Lady of the Manor and lost her rights to the Despencers, the forfeit of the latter seems to have carried the feudal overlordship of Alstonfield first to the Crown and then to the Duchy of Lancaster. But the Audleys held on to their possessions for many centuries, and some new light, in the shape of extracts from inquisitions, *p.m.*, of the Audleys by Mr. J. C. Wedgwood, M.P., has appeared since the following pages were in print. In that of 1307-8, we read—"Alstonfield:— A certain meadow at Fanfield [Fawfield] a certain wood with the pasture, called La Foreste, the profit of which is worth yearly £4. And there is there a rent of assize of free tenants yearly 65s. 10½d., and one 'quivere' for arrows, twelve arrows feathered and two bolted, and six heads of arrows worth 11½d., viz., from Richard de Draycote who holds one messuage two bovates of land for two arrow heads, price 1d.; Henry the Despencer who holds one vaccary called Quernyford (Quarnford) for four heads of arrows, price 2d.; Adam de Beresford, who holds the hamlet of Beresford for one quiver of twelve arrows feathered and two arrows bolted, price 8½d." (H.S.C., *n.s.* xi., p.p. 13 and 257.) General Wrottesley thinks that though Malbanc Forest became divided into three bailiwicks, the Beresfords—"a three headed watch-dog, like Cerberus"—eventually obtained all three; "or perhaps never parted with any in the first instance."

For permission to reproduce Mr. New's graphic drawings we are indebted to Mr. John Lane, the Publisher of *The Compleat Angler*, in which they appeared.

S. Luke's Vicarage, Leek, July, 1908.

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BERESFORD OF BERESFORD.

PART I.

History of the Manor.

CHAPTER I.

Early days at Beresford.



THE river Dove forms the eastern boundary of Staffordshire, dividing that county from Derbyshire throughout its entire length. The river rises on the high land south of Buxton, drops down to Crowdicote, and then enters a valley which is full of romance from end to end, and as rich in traces of the Ancient Britons as of the mediæval abbeys which had farming establishments in or near it during the middle ages. Pilsbury Castle and Arbor Low are famous entrenchments of the earliest character. The latter, Arbor Low, lies on the left or Derbyshire side of the river, about midway between Buxton and Ashbourne, on the high land; and from this high land a ridge of lofty peaks strikes westwards into the Staffordshire Moorlands, striding across the Dove just below Hartington, and dropping down from Wolfscote hill on the eastern side

of the river to Gratton, Narrowdale hill and Gateham, due west or at right angles from the Dove

In a pleasant basin on the north side of the ridge of peaks just named lies the ancient triangular manor of Beresford between three fords—those of Hartington and Beresford on the Dove and that of Archford or Hulme End on the Manifold. The manor has shrunk in importance since its ancient hall was forsaken by its ancient lord and now occupies a portion of the township of Fawfield Head detached. It is a manor within a manor, the latter being that of Alstonfield. But the whole township of Fawfield Head, consisting of over five thousand acres, stretches northwards as far as Longnor; and since this township and the townships of Quarnford with Heathy-lee—some fourteen thousand acres in extent—represent the ancient townships of “High Frith and Basford,” we get a view of the extent of country formerly owned or dominated by the lords of Beresford. High Frith was the higher and Beresford the lower portion of a district the most of which was forest.

Shrunk, however, though the manor may be, its famous dale combines in miniature all the beauties of Dovedale. It has its grey cliffs overhung with foliage, its murmuring river, its tall and slender tor rising out of Pike Pool, its mysterious caves, and, what Dovedale has not, the ruins of an ancient manor house with a history which, though unwritten until now, is worthy of attempt as well because of its chequered continuity through many ages as because of the reputation achieved by some members of the Family long situated there.

The Family is indeed in a quiet way so closely



THE CASTLE ROCK AT BERESFORD.

PHOTO: W. H. HORNE.

bound up with our national life, that its history will be illustrative of every period.

That history stretches back, we think, beyond the Conquest. On the ridge between the old hall at Beresford and the Dale is a record in rock which should not be overlooked. A great cliff, like a mighty tower, rises almost from the edge of the river Dove and dominates both the dale above and below, and also the country stretching northwards and westwards for many a mile. The cliff is cut off from the land behind or west of it by an artificial trench, and on every other side is inaccessible. An ancient dungeon has been built in the trench and a tower has just been rebuilt upon it which carried a beacon in Cotton's time. The rock has every appearance of being a primitive fortress, such as are not uncommon in North Staffordshire. They point to days when as yet combination on a large scale was not understood, and when men knew neither tribe nor kingdom but lived in family or village communities. Moreover, about a hundred yards from the fortress is a cave so cunningly contrived and cut in the limestone rock as to have been almost past discovery. This cave played an important part in the fortunes of the family after the castle-rock had been abandoned and its loose stones removed¹ to build the more convenient and sheltered hall on its western side. But Cotton speaks of more caves than one. He writes:

“Oh my beloved caves! From Dog-star heats
And bitter persecution, safe retreats.

¹ Foundations of a massive outer wall are visible on the edge of the rock.

What Safety, Privacy! What true delight
In the artificial Night
Your gloomy entrails make
Have I taken, do I take!
How oft when grief has made me fly
To hide me from Society,
Even of my dearest friends have I
In your recesses friendly shade
All my sorrows open laid
And my most secret woes entrusted to your privacy."

Now—venturesome as the assertion may appear—the rock fortress mentioned above so closely agrees in primitive Ivernian character with the physical features of the English Beresfords that we are disposed to think of fortress and family as linked together from a very early date, earlier perhaps even than the settlement of the Roman soldiers on the overlooking peak of Wolfscote. For whilst content only to watch Beresford the Romans fixed themselves in Pilsbury Castle higher up the Dove valley, and reduced the British fortress there to ruin² as is plain from existing features.

The Staffordshire Moorlands appear to have been largely forest lands before the Norman Conquest. The

² Professor Maitland's Note may be interesting in this connection. (Page 133 Domesday Book.) "The word which deserves our best attention is burh. . . . Now it seems fairly clear that for some long time after the Germanic invasions the word burh meant merely a fastness, a stronghold, and suggested no thick population nor any population at all. The hill top that has been fortified is a burh. Very often it has given its name to a neighbouring village." Pilsbury Grange is a group of buildings half a mile south of the castle, which castle consists of a strong entrenchment commanding a ford of the Dove, half of which entrenchment was grimly turned into a huge burial mound, and close to this on the sunny side, is the square Roman entrenchment, Roman relics having been found in the adjacent field. Both these fortresses and one lower down the river near Hanson and above Dove Holes evidently commanded the fords of the river.

place names of lower reaches of the Dove show that they were invaded by Danes who settled themselves about Okeover and Thorpe and came—so we gather from place names—as far up Dovedale as Hanson. But they do not seem to have been able to displace the settler at Beresford from his rock. At the Conquest these forest lands remained still in the tenure of the occupants so far at least as Okeover and the Rudyerds were concerned. That Beresford also was undisturbed seems probable. The Ivernian features of the rock fortress agree, as already noted, with the family type of small dark and lively personages. The tenure, too, under which the mediæval manor was held, the socage tenure, is rare and marks estates which escaped the grasp of the Conqueror.³ Moreover, let us add, tradition says that William Rufus visited the forest in person and razed Longnor to the ground because its inhabitants were inveterate deer-stealers.⁴ But another purpose more probably brought him or his agents hither. He needed the help of the old pre-Norman families against the Normans who disputed his succession to the throne; and to that fact our ancient Moorlanders may owe the favourable terms under which they were allowed to remain. Arguing also from personal names, we may say that the Moorlanders were not Saxon. The Saxons

3 Williams' *Real Property*, p. 121. Hallam's *Middle Ages*, chap. VIII. end.

4 This tradition I had from Mr. Milward of Longnor about forty years ago. He was then an old man. To him our knowledge of the locality of Malbanc Forest is due. Domesday Record shows that the district in Warslow and about Beresford was three times as populous and prosperous as the rest of Alstonefield, and this fact may have originated the term Fawfieldhead, the name of the township of which Beresford is a part.—The Fairfield?—W.B.

penetrated into the hills little further than Stoke-on-Trent, and never obtained more than scattered colonies in the district of the Upper Dove. The people of the Lower Dove in the Roll of Burton Abbey are Osberts, Ailwins, Leurics, Godrics, Gamels, and Edrics, but the Beresfords were traditionally John, Hugh, Aden or Adam, and William.

The Domesday Survey of Warslow, part of Alstonfield, should have included Beresford in it as did the Inquisition of 1275; but the Survey is imperfect and was never completed. The entry runs:—"In Wereslei quæ pertinet huic manerio (Alstonfield) est terra . . . Ibi sunt iiij villani, & ii bord: cu: i car. Ibi viij acpti, Silua ibi una leuii lg dimid: lat: val: XL Sol. Goduin ten."⁵ The letter R in the margin shows that further enquiry had to be made into local circumstances. But it was not made. And here arises an important question. Captain John Beresford, who in 1681 bought Beresford from Joseph Wodehouse to whom Charles Cotton sold it, was something of an antiquary. As we shall see later on, he made a journey in wretched weather to Combermere Abbey to investigate the history of Newton Grange; and he not only bought Beresford as it stood, but actually allowed the Cottons to remain

⁵ "In Warslow, which pertains to this manor, is land. . . . Here are 4 villeins, & 2 borderers with one plough, 8 acres of meadow, and a wood 3 miles long by 1½ wide. Value 40s. Godwin held it."

"In the description of a wasted tract in Staffordshire (in Domesday Book) we see six cases close together in which two different guesses as to the number of potential teamlands are recorded. . . . How much arable land is there in this village? Well, if by arable you mean land that is ploughed, there is none."—Professor Maitland's *Domesday*. p. 426.

there; so that he had every opportunity of investigating muniments before the break up of the Cottons dispersed them. Amongst other documents at Beresford he found a List of Deeds apparently made by a herald who had been employed by the family on becoming linked with the Stanhopes to draw up its pedigree in 1621,⁶ and Captain John made a copy of the List which we quote as D. 98. This together with very many other ancient copies and original Beresford Deeds is now in the possession of Mr. Charles Drury of Sheffield by whose kindness and unfailing courtesy the freest access to them has been given.⁷ The herald's note on the earliest of the Beresford Deeds is thus made:—"4 Octob. 1 W 2, 1087 Johes Beresford fuit scit de manerio de Beresford Christopher Beresford sen. was a witness." The language is that of the herald translating the older phraseology of the Deed.

The original of the record thus mentioned cannot be found, but Sir Simon Degge and Thomas Blore, the Topographer, both fully believed in its genuine character.⁸ And when one remembers that William II. is said to have been in the neighbourhood at that very date, one

6 This Pedigree in contemporary hand was given in my presence some years ago by the Widow of the Rector of Fenny Bentley to the Rev. E. A. Beresford. She had it when Mr. Lucas's goods at Bentley were dispersed.—W.B.

7 The Beresford Deeds, now belonging to Mr. Charles Drury, were formerly at Bentley New Hall, and were left behind by Captain Richard Beresford at the beginning of the nineteenth century when he got rid of his Derbyshire estates. At Bentley Hall the deeds were found by the late Mr. Lucas and bequeathed to Mrs. Faulkner, whose daughter married Mr. Drury. We quote them under the letter D, with their numbers. (See *Reliquary*, vol. IX, 178, for an explicit statement as to where they were found).

8 Note in Blore's *Pedigree of Beresford*.

might suppose that the deed contained the terms on which John de Beresford was allowed either to settle or, perhaps more probably, to remain at Beresford.

A manor in the best part of the Moorlands and a quasi-serjeantcy of the district, under the Norman lords may have remained to a John de Beresford in 1087. If he belonged to a race long settled at Beresford we may regard him as having obtained much favour with the Conquerors. But on the other hand, the smallness of the grant, if grant it were, hardly justifies the tradition, which has always run, that the Beresfords were Norman. Their supposed Christian names in Norman times correspond with those of their Norman over-lords, and this would lead one to suppose that, if not members of that wide-spreading Norman family which settled around them as De Audleys, De Verduns, De Ipstones, De Biddulphs, etc., they were ante-Saxon in sympathy, being perhaps pre-Saxon; for it was probably after Hugh Lupus Earl of Chester, on whom Alstonfield devolved, and after Hugh de Malbanc who held Alstonfield under Lupus that our supposed John de Beresford named his supposed son and successor Hugh de Beresford.

But beyond doubt the earliest recorded spelling of the name is not "Beresford" at all but "Beveresford." General Wrottesley thinks John de Beveresford who attests an Okeover document not later than 1241 is the earliest yet discovered⁹ and certainly the Aden de Beversford of the time of Edward II. and III. was the first to change his name to Beresford.

We may at all events safely conclude, then, both that the name is derived from a ford, and that this ford in the sunny end of Beresford Dale was once remarkable for a colony of beavers whose carefully built dam formed an early footway over the stream and made a pool in the Dove deep enough for the beavers to defy the wolves which have left their names on the neighbouring Wolfscote hall and hill. But may we not also conclude that all the circumstances, whether of local rock and earth-works, situation, family features, tradition, alleged ancient documents (vouched for by the most eminent antiquaries of the past), all show that the Beresfords were here at the Conquest, or even earlier? Nor did they fail after the Conquest, as we shall hope to indicate in the next chapter. But let us first get a clear view of the district about the time of the Conquest.

The Domesday Record not only includes Warslow within the manor of Alstonfield but it tells that the whole manor of Alstonfield was held as a knight's fee by Roger, Count of Shrewsbury, and by William de Malbanc under him. The first part of the record runs:—*Terra Comitum Rogerii. Ipse com: ten: Ænestanefelt et Wills de eo. Ibi sunt iii virg: træ: Tra e: iii car. In dnio e: una & un: vills cu: i car:.*

From which we gather that almost the whole manor was a desolation. In its widespread area of 21,860 acres, only three virgates were worth notice, and there were but three plough lands and one plough. Warslow, however, as we have seen, was better off, having besides that which the hiatus covers, four farmers, two labourers,

a plough, eight acres of meadow, and a wood one league long by half a league broad.

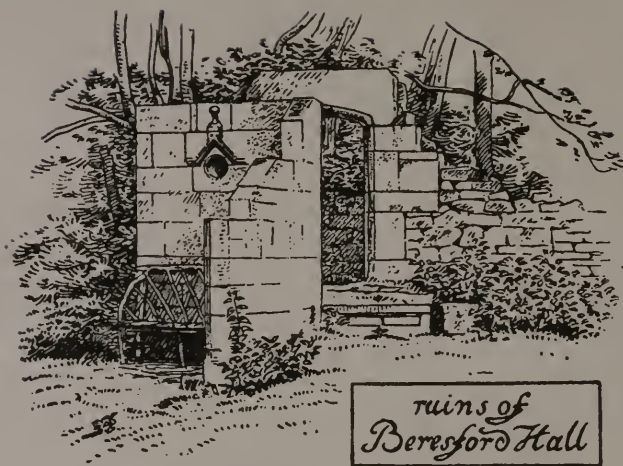
But only for a short time did the Count of Shrewsbury retain the overlordship. William de Malbanc, Baron of Wich Malbanc in Cheshire, had soon the satisfaction of seeing his moorland manor transferred to the Honor of Chester under whose great and almost royal Earl, Hugh the Wolf, he was Lord Marcher.

Beresford, as we shall presently see, a manor within the manor of Alstonfield, lay in Warslow. Tradition¹⁰ says that a squirrel could leap from bough to bough from the Valley of the Manifold to Beresford Hall. The manor was sheltered on every side by great hills¹¹ except on the west whence the forest sloped down to the pleasant meadows by the Dove, and lay on the extreme edge of the march-land which bounded the "Honor of Chester" to the east. Its peculiar rent, twelve broad arrows and a quiver, or twelve pence annually, also suggests a further service, the—quasi-sergeantry—which may be well indicated by that under which at a latter date the Fawns held land in Duffield Frith. We are told¹² that they paid only twelve pence a year, because one of their estates in the Frith or Forest was that where the lord's chamber lay. So, as Beresford was the only house in Malbanc Forest offering accommo-

¹⁰ *Reliquary*, 1864, p. 202. Mr. Carrington had this from aged persons who had it from aged persons who could remember it.

¹¹ On the south-east lies Wolfscote Hill, and on the south Gratton Hill, Narrowdale, Narrowdale Hill, and Gateham, the latter overtopped by Wetton Hill—a ridge which formed a view from Beresford looking south.

¹² Glover's *Derbyshire*, Vol. II., 3.



Ruins of Beresford Tower before rebuilding by Mr. Green in 1905-6. There is a vault beneath the area through the door. These ruins form the base of the Restored Tower on the Castle Rock.

dation to travellers over the twelve miles of moorland and forest which lay between it and Leek, there can be little doubt that both the Malbancs and their palatine lords looked eagerly for the Tower on the Keep at Beresford as soon as they gained the ridge of Morridge and got well into the forest, which lay before them, in Beresford's custody.

General Wrottesley thus writes:—"These so-called forests were great tracks of moor or waste land: uncultivated, and were really chases. Most of the great Barons had

‘The chase for the wild
The park for the tame.’

as Walter Scott says. They were rarely, if ever, made by the Normans; for the features of the country existed at the time of the Conquest, and nearly all the terms of venery are Saxon. So the name of the Forest Courts is Saxon, viz., Swainmote. Most of the foresters too have Saxon names, such as Trumwyn, Alfred de Canoc, etc. The laws of the forest in use at the time of the Conquest were those of Canute, and they were much mitigated by the Normans. You will see this is a very different account from that given by Thierry and the monkish historians from which he derives his ideas. In the introduction to *The Forest Pleas* in Vol. V. of our Collections, I have tried to combat the generally received notions about the forest laws of the Normans." All that is said here, about the easy terms made at Beresford between the Norman invader and the British settler there, illustrates the truth of the General's observation.

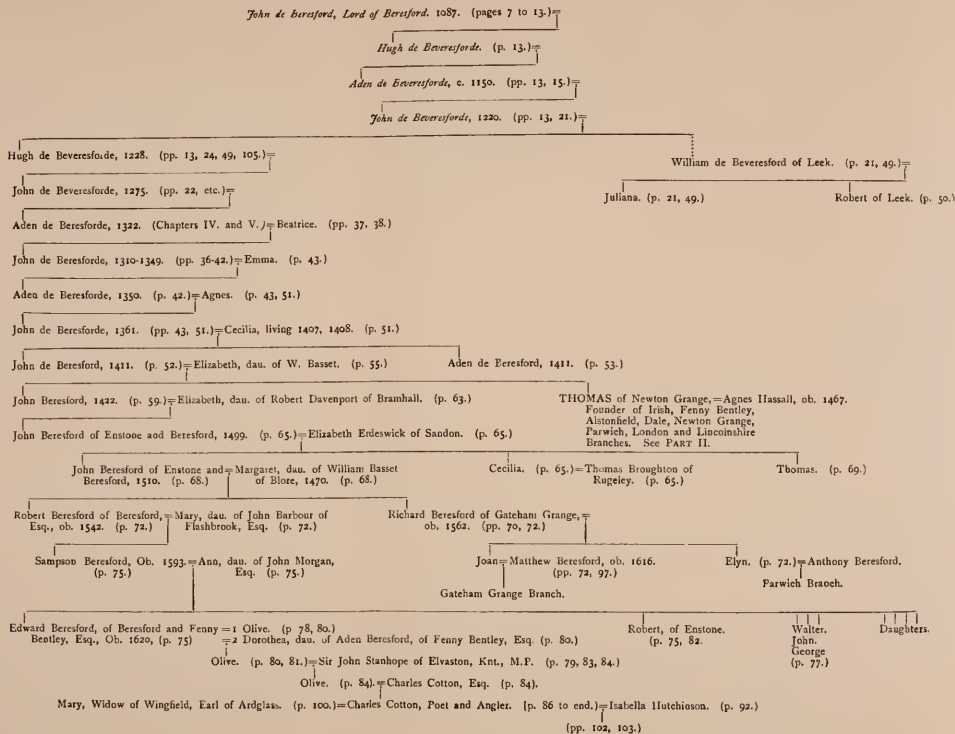
Thus then as the country settled down after the Conquest we find the manor of Alstonfield occupied by a forest, over part of which at least, the Beversfords or Beresfords, when they appear, were Master Foresters. But the situation of Beresford on the river Dove suggests also that its owner was custodian of the important "fords" between which the place lay. This duty would be re-imposed upon them by the Malbancs, who had charge of the Earl of Chester's marches. The forest lands between Beresford and Leek bordered the great road from Chester to Lincoln and became Malbanc Frith or Malbanc Forest.¹⁸ This Forest preserved the memory of the Malbancs; and their personal influence lasted long in the neighbourhood through the Abbey of Combermere which they founded in 1133 and to which Gateham, close to Beresford, and Newton, only a few miles away, were given as Granges. But the Malbanc Barony itself endured but a short time. In 1220 it was divided among three sisters, co-heiresses, who thus held Alstonfield in co-parceny, and by their marriages introduced the De Verduns of Alton, the De Audleys, and perhaps the Le Despencers, into an immediate connection with the Beresfords which lasted throughout the Middle Ages.

¹⁸ William Harrison in *Hollinshead's Chronicle* says "Of Woods and Marshes," (1577, Book II., chap. 16). "There was great store of woods in old time in Lincolnshire. The hills called Peak were in like sort named Mennith and Orcoit, that is wood hills and forest. But how much wood is now to be seen in those places let him that hath been there testify if he list. For I hear of no such store there as has been in time past by those that travel that way."—E.A.B.

Beresford of Beresford.


ARMS: *Argent*, three bears rampant, *sable*, muzzled *or*. (page 78.)

CREST: A bear's paw. (page 78.)



CHAPTER II.

Traces of the Beresfords of Norman Times.

O antiquary more eminent than Thomas Blore has ever turned attention to the history of Derbyshire and the adjacent Staffordshire Moorlands; and both in the Pedigree he drew up for Francis Beresford of Ashbourne at the close of the eighteenth century, and in the odd volume of his Collections, viz., Vol. VI., now in the Salt Library, he asserts the actual existence of John de Beresford as lord of Beresford in 1087 and in the pedigree he quotes Degge as supporting it. But unhappily the Fourth Volume of "Collections," that to which he refers us, is not yet to be found. Neither can we find a positive mention in any chronicle or roll of the immediate descendants which Blore gives to John. Yet we think that traces of such names remain. Let us notice them here.

In August, 1794, Thomas Blore, wrote thus of the earlier descents of the Beresford Pedigree. "The first descents . . . in the pedigree which was produced to me by Francis Beresford of Ashburne, gent., are: John de Beresford, temp. W. Rufus, Hugh de Beresford [contemporary with] William de Beresford, then Aden de Beresford, John de Beresford and Hugh de Beresford, etc. But that pedigree having been made so late as 1745 and not being authenticated by any signature, I believe the descents as I have set them down in this pedigree to be more correct,

being according and agreeable to the authority of Sir Simon Degge, Knt., a lawyer who was Recorder of Derby immediately after the Restoration of King Charles II., and who was besides a diligent antiquary, and had bestowed great pains in the collection of the History of Staffordshire Families and had seen many ancient deeds of the Beresfords."¹⁴ Beresford Hall in Degge's time was standing, and no sale had yet dispersed its ancient contents. The only difference, however, which Blore makes in the old pedigree, is to reduce the William named to be brother to the second, instead of the first Hugh de Beresford. And Blore adds with respect to the Deed of Oct. 1087, "Contemporary with the first named John de Beresford and a witness to one of his deeds was Christopher de Beresford, senior. . . . (*Vide* Collections in my possession, vol. 4, p. 66, formerly made by Brailsford, and afterwards in the hands of Bassano) but how Christopher was related to John does not appear." Two volumes which are considered to be Bassano's are in the Salt Library, and we have often consulted them and have taken much previously unknown information from them, but they do not fit in with Blore's reference to "Vol. IV., p 66," though they support his statements.

After John, 1087, Blore places Hugh and after Hugh, Aden or Adam, who would live about the year 1150. Turning to the Records of the County, for which Gen. the Honourable George Wrottesley has done so

¹⁴ M.S. Pedigree *penes* the Senior Branch of the Beresfords. For a splendid copy of this pedigree and many suggestions we are indebted to the Rev. Edward Aden Beresford, Rector of Hoby. Sir Simon's grandmother was a sister of John Bagnall, nephew of Sir Ralph Bagnall, which John married Agnes Beresford at Alstonfield, 1584. She was a daughter of Richard Beresford.

much, we find that about this date, 1150, an Adam lived in the Moorlands whose descendants, Robert Fitz-Adam, owned estates in Waterfall, Butterton, and Grindon. Robert left five daughters—1. Eda, who married Robert de Castern, a sub-tenant of Sir Hugh de Okeover, at Castern in Ilam. She left a son William. 2. Mary, wife of Turgist de Ilam. 3. Margery, first married to Richard eldest son of Ralph de Okeover, half brother of Sir Hugh de Okeover, and secondly to Sir Roger Putrel, a Derbyshire Knight. 4. Hawyse, married first to William de Butterton by whom she had a son William, and then to Nicholas de Winster, and 5. Ingryda married to William de Wrottesley, whose subsequent descent has been most fully traced by General the Hon. George Wrottesley in the admirable family history¹⁵ from which these names are taken. Famous law suits followed these marriages, one of which unfortunately brought the fair Hawyse to plead in person before King John; and a jury was empannelled in connection with the suits on which the Cheddleton, the Audley, the Ferrars, the Ipstones, the Blore, Phillip Fitz-Bishop and other neighbours and contemporaries of the Beresfords appear, but no Beresford. The conclusion is almost irresistible that the Fitz-Adams themselves were really Beresfords, and Robert Fitz-Adam the son of the first Adam Beresford,—a conclusion strengthened by several facts. Butterton, Wetton, and Waterfall lie together near Beresford. These places, like Beresford, are omitted from Domesday book—possibly for the reason which omitted Tamworth

15 *History of the Family of Wrottesley of Wrottesley, Co. Staffs.*, p. 25.

namely that they owned Le Despencer as their overlord. The Beresfords for centuries later had lands in all these places, the inheritance of Adam being perhaps then only divided. And lastly, no Beresford appears on the jury who investigated the case.

The oldest deeds preserved by the Beresfords, which have actually come down to our day, carry us back to this period, 1087-1240, and although they do not directly refer to the family, they touch on some of the actors in the Fitz-Adams suits. Deed, D. 53, (Drury Collection) is of King John's time. It testifies that Roger, son of Henry, gave to Nicholas Mestlinc half a virgate of land in Haletuna (Haughton) which William le Bræur (Brewer) held with six acres of the gift of Robert de Elias and Thomas Noel. The witnesses are Robert de Elias, Rob. fil Nicolai, Nicolas fil henri, filipp fil epc, Ricard. briton, Ricard. his son, Johanes de Wulleveston, Rob. fil hamun, Ricardus de Bensac, Suem fil. eve, Rob. Mestlinc and many others—well known characters in West Staffordshire. Thomas Noel died 1206.¹⁶ Robert Fitz Elias married an heiress of the Caverswalls.¹⁷ Robert, son of Hamon, was one of the Baron of Stafford's Knights.¹⁸ Richard Peche, Bishop of Lichfield, dying in 1126 left a son, Richard, who had been for thirty-five years Archdeacon of Coventry, and was afterwards Bishop of Lichfield, 1161-1182. Philip (de Burgo), "son of the Bishop," witnesses in 1194-5 a gift of Hervey Bagot to Thomas Noel,¹⁹ and was

¹⁶ H. S. C., IV., 271. ¹⁷ H. S. C., IV., 280. ¹⁸ H. S. C., II., 248.

¹⁹ H. S. C., II. 266. IV. 268. Brough is in Ranton; Ranton Priory was founded on the old episcopal property by Celestria, wife of Robert Fitz Noel, and daughter of Robert de Limesi, Bishop of Lichfield, 1088-1117. H. S. C., IV., 264, 265.

one of the jurors in the famous lawsuit brought by Hawyse, one of Fitz-Adam's daughters, in the reign of King John.

Another ancient deed (D. 45) preserved by the Beresfords witnesses that a church, which was afterwards destroyed, existed at Clifton, near Ashbourne, apparently under the charge of Philip the Priest, about the same date, 1190-1200.

Remembering that surnames were not yet fixed, and that Hugh of Beresford or Beveresford in the days of King John would just as probably be called Hugh of Alstonfield; remembering also that the Beresfords were hereditary custodians of Malbanc Forest, we read the following with the greater interest.

Philippa, Countess of Warwick, the eldest daughter of the last Baron of Malbanc, had rights of her own in the district over and above her share in co-parceny. In 1228 the Plea Rolls record "an Assize to ascertain whether Henry de Aldithelegh and Hugh le Despencer had disseized Philippa Malbanc of common of pasture in Alstanleigh." Henry and Hugh admitted that Philippa and her heirs were entitled to all the issues and profits arising from one-third of the forest of Alstanesfeld and they further agreed to pull down the fence they had erected at Querneford in the same forest; and Henry and Hugh and Philippa agreed that an enquiry should take place as to whether a certain place called Querneford which Hugh had enclosed had been a park *in defenso* in the time of Peter the Clerk of Chester or was open pasture.²⁰

This was nearly one hundred years before the climax of the Le Despencers' fortunes in the reign of Edward II., but it shews them growing²¹

A suit of the previous year, 1227, seems to show that the Beresford of the time, Hugh de Beresford,²² who was living in 1249, was then acting for Philippa de Malbanc. The record is that Philippa attorned in her place Hugh de Alstilfield (Hugh of Alstonfield) and Robert le Boleneis in a plea of novel disseizin between Philippa, plaintiff, and Henry de Aldithelegh and Hugh Dispensator, deforciant, and likewise in the plea between the same Philippa and the Abbot of Combermere respecting a messuage in Hastilfield (Alstonfield).²³ There is absolutely nothing to show that this Hugh de Alstonfield was not really the Hugh de Beresford of Blore's Pedigree and the Okeover documents.

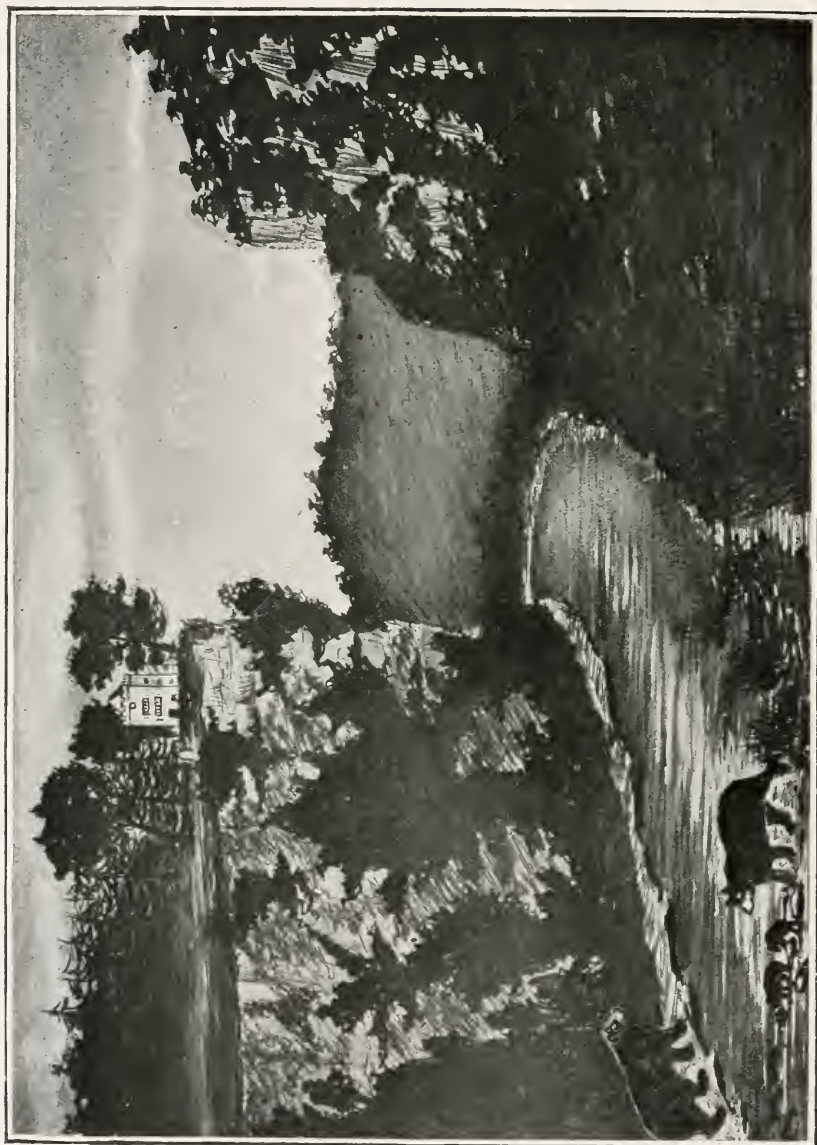
The Audleys came into possession of two-thirds of a third of Alstonfield in co-parceny by grant from or marriage with one of the daughters of the last Baron de Malbanc. But how the Le Despencers obtained another third is not so clear. Philippa forfeited her third to the Earls of Chester, sometime after she became Countess of Warwick.²⁴ The Earl held it himself awhile and then seems to have given it to his hereditary Dispensator, Hugh le Despencer, who had already a share of the manor and property at Waterfall and Denstone. But the above suits shew that Philippa did not

²¹ Round's *Studies*, p. 303.

²² Three Deeds named in D 98.

²³ H. C. S., IV., 52.

²⁴ Ormerod's *Cheshire*, Vol. III., 423, new edition.



COLONEL G. W. BERESFORD'S FANCY SKETCH OF THE DALE. VERY NEARLY TRUE.

readily consent to lose her share of her father's patrimony. They shew also that the Le Despencers were trying to disposses Philippa before her lands were forfeited. Who shall say that they did not procure the forfeit? They certainly profited by it.

This mention of the possession of Quarnford by Philippa Malbanc coupled with the tradition that Malbanc Forest lay in the wild land near the Royal Cottage, seems to show that the third of the forest of Alstonfield, which the Le Despencers got hold of, was the tract of moorlands stretching westwards and north-westwards from Beresford as far as the eye of anyone standing on the watch tower there could reach. This tract, became known as "High Frith and Basford." The tendency was to shorten the latter name, first from Beveresford to Beresford, and then, colloquially, to Basford. The family seem not only to have dropped the remembrance of the Beaver out of their name, and to have written it "Beresford" in the period we are approaching, but also to have taken Beresford to signify the Bear's ford. When we first get a glimpse of the family arms, three bears are upon them.

Colonel G. W. Beresford suggests that the ford may have been a much more important crossing of the Dove when rocks and trees, fallen from the densely wooded and soaring cliffs, dammed the river and made frequent pools. Deep water doubtless backed up to, and lay black and eddying at the foot of Beresford Castle-rock. But more than this. The place was a worthy "ford," because a series of ancient tracks or forest roads here passed the Dove towards the opening in the cliffs near

Wolfscote; whilst the "fords" a little above were blocked by Hartington and Pilsbury Castle, and below by the camp on the south side of Hanson Gorge. The other "passes" over the Dove Valley were only painfully passable as far south as Thorpe.

We now emerge from the realm of probable conjecture in which from the earliest days the long-headed, lively, dark complexioned guardians of Beresford Rock hunted and watched the forest, first for themselves; then for noble Saxon lords;²⁵ and then for their incoming Norman masters; holding still the foresterships until the land was disafforested in the time of Charles I. Their guardianship of the district tied the lord of Beresford to the spot, but as we shall see, his outlook was a wide one, his local knowledge valuable, and his influence great. His sons were sent to the wars, though he himself had to stay at home. And throughout the whole period he was not only quasi-sergeant of the forest and guardian of the chief passes of the Dove—a position in which he seems to have been confirmed in the reformation of Mid-England by King Canute,—but lord also of the manor of Beresford, whether known as Beversford or Beresford.

²⁵ Godwin, whom Domesday records as Lord of Alstonfield before the Conquest, was the most powerful noble of his time and ranked—says Green in his *Conquest*, p. 427,—first of English Nobles. His possessions and duties on both the Dove and the Churnet, *i.e.*, both in Alstonfield and Cheddleton, passed *en bloc* to the Malbancs; and hence, perhaps, the connection in the middle ages between the De Cheddletons and De Beresfords. The site of Cheddleton Hall towers above the Churnet, as Beresford rock does above the Dove.

CHAPTER III.

Actual Records.



R. HORACE ROUND tells us in the last quarterly *Ancestor*, that of January, 1905, that "the earliest member of the Beresford family yet discovered is, in General Wrottesley's opinion, John de Beveresford who attests an Okeover document not later than 1241." In this document a bovate of land at Shene is resigned into the hands of Robert de Okeover,—William de Ipstones, William Meverell and John de Beveresford being witnesses.¹ But the document may be as early as 1220, and the John de Beveresford be identical with the John de Beresford whom Blore's pedigree places third after the supposed John of 1087. To this John of 1220 Blore gives two sons—Hugh who was, he says, lord of Beresford in 1249, and William whose name appears on a jury of Edward I.'s—(*Plea Rolls*, H.S.C. VI., 256. He had a daughter, Juliana.) A Hugh de Beveresford is mentioned with William de Ipstones, William Meverell of Throwley, William de Butterdun, etc., as a witness to a deed of Hugh son of Robert de Okeover (1220-1240) which Hugh de Okeover remained faithful in 1263-7 to the king during

¹ II. S. C., n. s. VII., 155. Okeover documents. Other witnesses were:—Henry de Denston, Richard de Draycote, Henry de Ilum, Robert de Casterne, Adam de Rust (Rushton), Roger de Woodhouse and others.

the Montfort rebellion.² The same Hugh de Beveresford appears again with William de Cheddleton and William de Ipstones in another deed of Hugh de Okeover.³ But in 1275 a second John de Beveresford appears,—all agreeing with the names set down in the earliest stages of the pedigree by Blore. And the latter record—that of 1275—is so full of information as to the condition of the Moorlands then that we may notice it more fully. It shows the young English Justinian setting to work.

The Inquisition was, by command of King Edward I. in the third year of his reign, taken by Sir Richard de Fokeram and Osbert de Berescote with the help of a jury of the Hundred of Totmonslow. The jurors,—squires of the district,—were :—

Sir Philip de Draycote
 Roger de Verney
 Richard de Acovere
 Henry de Casterne
 Benedict de Botertone
 John de Beveresfort in Verselow
 Symon Basset
 William Meverel in Ylum
 Walter le Mareschal in Fenton
 Richard de Stoke in Leye
 Robert de Acovere in Denston
 Robert de Chetelton
 Robert de Gretewis
 Richard de Rodeyert

After giving facts about Uttoxeter, Loxley and some

² H. S. C., VII, N. S., 141 and 18.

³ *Ibid*, 147.

other places, they tell the keen young King that Alton was held of the King *in capite* by one Knight's fee, and that Henry de Audley held Audley and Endon of the same manor as a Knight's fee. . . . The Abbot of Deulacres held the manor of Leek of the King *in capite* and it used to be of the liberty of Chester. The Abbey of Hulton held Mixon and it used to be held in fee farm by service of *five shillings*, a cartload of hay and an iron fork paid to the manor of Penkhull. They say that William de Caverswall farmed the Hundred of Totmonslow by paying £10 yearly to the King. The Barons of Alstanesfelt, viz. : Henry de Audley and his co-parceners gave a mark annually to the Sheriff for view of frank pledge, and the Sheriff was accustomed to hold a court there annually or receive a fine and it was first withheld in the time of Hugh le Despencer. Henry de Audley, Hugh le Despencer and Warine de Vernun had gallows (at Alstonfield) but it was not known by what warrant. The Abbot of Deulacres, Henry de Audley, and the Lord of Alton had Sergeanties and took by force and unjustly *passagium*, passage money, from persons passing through their lands. Verdun had enclosed free chases, and the Sheriff of the County took money to conceal offences. William Rome, Bailiff of Henry de Audley, had his brother in his house at Alstonfield, who was a felon and an outlaw. John Bareil hid Robert Oviet for a mark, and Robert Bente for forty shillings. The sheriffs and sub-sheriffs took bribes to admit offenders to bail. . . . Henry the Rector of the church of Blore, the Bailiff of Henry de Audley in Alstonfield, took ten shillings from William de Narrow-

dale. . . . and the Bailiff of Verdun at Alton took six oxen and cows from Richard de Ruddeyert and retained four of them, and for giving up two took a mark. And the Coroners were equally corrupt, exacting two shillings at an inquest.⁴

This Inquisition is interesting as shewing the Beresford of the time at work on public business of the highest local importance in the company of several of the families descended from the Fitz-Adams of Waterfall. Le Despencer is now established as joint lord of Alstonfield.

Neither the List (D. 98) of Deeds formerly preserved at Beresford nor Blore's Pedigree mentions this John, but he occurs on what is called "Dick Levinge's Pedigree," and that drawn up by Lodge, between Hugo of 1249 and Aden of 1296.

A Hugh de Beveresford occurs in a deed of 1274 in the Rideware Chartulary.⁵ The witnesses to a transference of some land at Hartington are, among others:—

Stephen de Ireton	Roger de Merche
John de Kent	Wm. de Iveley
William son of Bruno	Ralph his Brother
Ralph son of Henry de	Henry son of Thomas of
Alsop	Alsop
Hugo de Beveresford	John de Bostanes (Bostern
Helyas de Heecham	near Hanson Grange)
Sampson the Cleric (of Ashburne), etc.	

⁴ H. S. C., Vol. V. pt. 1, 119-121.

⁵ H. S. C., Vol. XVI., p. 275. Amongst the Okeover Deeds Hugo de Beresford witnesses a deed of Rober Acour; Hugo de Beveresford a grant by Hugo de Acour to Rich. de Swynscoe and Cecilia his wife, as he does another deed between the same parties.—Col. W. H. Fitz-Herbert.

CHAPTER IV.

Aden de Beresford—Anxious Days.



WE now come to notice the brief records of the man who first adopted the modern spelling of the name, one indeed who was the most important member of the family in the middle ages. He is twice mentioned on the List of Deeds (D98) thus:—"16 E. II, 1322, Aden de Beresford," and again "17 E. II. 1323, Aden de Beresford, Dom de Beresford." These deeds might perhaps show us how he steered his course through the terrible commotions of the year 1321 and following years, when the Barons were seeking the destruction of the Le Despencers. Then probably fire and sword made Malbanc Forest more desolate than it had been; and to this day the track of the Barons is a waste howling wilderness. What did the chief forester do? How did he comport himself during the deadly feud between Le Despencer and Audley, two of the coparceners of the overlordship of his little manor? The Le Despencers, as Justices of the Forest, had banished the Countess of Warwick from Malbanc Forest; it was one of the final accusations against them that they tried to obtain for themselves the property of the Audleys in Alstonfield. The position of Aden de Beresford, who held under both, must have been a difficult one. But he does not appear to have hid himself.

Looking back we find him steadily employed in the

public service. Aden succeeded John before 1301, the twenty-ninth year of Edward I.; and curiously the first notice of him records him as a member of a jury in default.¹ Richard de Caverswall had been thrown into prison on a suit against the Lord of Alton, one of the co-parceners of Alstonfield, and others; and the following jury, perhaps prudently, failed to appear:—

William de Beysin	Michael de Morton
Richard de Doxey	Walter de Morton
Ralph de Botiler	Richard de Brynton
Henry Fitz Herberd	Thomas le Forester
Richard de Sandbache	Richard de Levynnton
William de Wrottesley	Henry de Wyverston
Reginald de Charnes	William Wycht of Cotes
Stephen de Oakley	Adam de Bereford
Adam de Chedle	William Bagenholt

Here, for the first time, we find Fitzherbert, Bagnal and Beresford together.

Six years later, namely in 1307, the jury for the Hundred of Totmonslow (H. S. C., VII., 172) is

William Wyther	John de Prestwode
John de Castern	Henry Onweyn
Richard de Kavereswalle	William de la Blakeleye
John de Ipstones	Robert de Bradeheved
Wm., son of Robert de Kavereswalle	
Ithelus de Wariner	Ralph Basset
Adam de Beveresford	

Many of these were descendants of the families

¹ H. S. C. VII., 96. Assize Roll 30 Ed., m. 52. A William de Beveresford appears on a List of a Jury for the Hundred of Totmonslow, temp. Ed. I.—*Plea Roll*, 21 Ed. I., H. S. C. VI., pt. 1, 256.

whom we have noticed in supposed connection with the Beresfords ever since the Conquest, and this is the last notice of the family as Beveresfords.

In the crisis of the Le Despencer's fortunes, Adam, as he was called in public records, or rather Aden, as he was known at home, de Beresford was summoned to the Court at Tutbury with his faithful henchman and sub-taxer (of Alstonfield) William Maycock,—in whose family by the way the name Aden or Addin is used to this day—to account with every other taxpayer of the county for default in collecting. They were fined two marks, and Okeovere, Stafford, Leveson, Chetwynd and others shared the same fate. And at this time, 1323, Adam and William de Beresford²—Beveresford no longer,—Okeovere, Caverswall, etc., beg to be admitted to a fine for failing to collect as much as they ought to have done from the people. They say that the times are bad; but the fact is that the King and the Le Despenchers are most unpopular, and the Earl of Lancaster's influence is strong in the Moorlands. They agree to pay, or perhaps rather to owe, 340 marks to the King. (H. S. C. IX., 95.) A few days later there is a keen enquiry after the goods left behind or flung away by the vanquished Earl of Lancaster in his flight from Burton Bridge. The jurors are again at Tutbury and very exciting is their story, but we can quote only one or two illustrative statements from it. The jury of Offlow and Totmonslow presented that an outrage had been

² William de Beveresford, who now also spelt his name as Beresford, lived at Broncote on the western side of Malbanc Forest, as shown by a deed of the Rud-yerds, on a hill overlooking a great length of the road from Leek towards Buxton.

done to the Audleys:—that seven cartloads of gold cloth and silver vessels and ornaments of the chapel, worth £300 were taken from Helegh Castle by order of Peter de Lymesey to the Priory of Tutbury. The Prior declared that the carts never came to the Priory. “The fact was,” he said, “that the Countess of Lincoln had called at the Priory on the vigil of the Epiphany, 1322, with her household for shelter and hospitality, and and remained there two days, departing on the third with all her stuff complete as she came. The carts in question went to Tutbury Castle not to the Priory.”

The jury also accused the Abbot of Burton that after the flight of the Earl of Lancaster from the Battle of Burton Bridge, he had seized the Earl's money and goods to the value of £200. The Abbot said he had had next to nothing of all this but a silver cup, and had given that up to the King. But the jury stated otherwise, and the Abbot was charged with concealing £300. (H. S. C. IX. 97.)

Perhaps the rich find of coins in 1831 in the bed of the Dove, hard by Tutbury, may help to exculpate the poor Abbot. It seems clear that there was a great scramble for the contents of Tutbury Castle as soon as the Earl had fled from the neighbourhood, and that Lancastrian Abbots and Priors were not much in favour with King Edward II.

An idea of the confusions of the time may be gathered from a statement made in 17 Edward II., 1324, by the Jury of the Hundred of Totmonslow. They say that Robert de Madele and many others of the household of Thomas Furnival, Junr., of Alton Castle, entered

vi et armis the granges of John Kynardesle (Kynnersley) and Nicholas de Hungerford and took a hundred shillings worth of corn from them, and corn from Thomas Broun of Alton to the value of ten marks; and Furnival took by force from Thomas Moeverel of Throwley sixteen pigs worth sixteen shillings, and two oxen worth twenty shillings; and the same Thomas de Furnival, with others armed, had taken goods from the house of William de Stafford and six horses and victuals to the value of twenty pounds and carried them to Alton Castle. Thomas, however, appeared and said he had collected a force for the King, and they it was who had taken Kynnersley's goods. (H. S. C., X., 53.)

At the moment to which these records refer, the King and the Le Despencers were triumphing. Lancaster, the people's champion, had fled from the Moorlands, scattering valuables as he went. A horse-load of jewelry and other valuables had been picked up at Rocester. The Earl hastened away to Pontefract and fell at Borough Bridge.

But the tide was about to turn. The Beresford documents of 1322 and 1323, if accessible, might throw light on the place in those years. We have noted that one of the accusations against the Le Despencers, when in 1327 their fate finally overtook them, was that they had tried to dispossess the Audleys of their share in Alstonfield. We have seen above how they had succeeded with the Malbancs. Greed of wealth and pride of power became their ruin. But Nemesis was dogging them, from whom there was no escape.

Not a baron in England had been more respected

than the elder Hugh le Despencer. The jury of 1275 had less to say against him than against any other local noble. The foolish partiality of King Edward II. for his son, the younger Le Despencer, was the cause of the bitter hatred which sprang up towards the family. And here a gleam of local light may fall on national history. Lancaster recommended the younger Le Despencer to Edward II. because Edward hated him—say the historians. But the *Inquisitiones post mortem* seem rather to shew that the Le Despenchers were the vassals of the royal house of Lancaster.

All our Moorlands then were beginning to owe more or less of suit and service to Tutbury. The great castle dominated all the Dove. And the same cause, operating through Malbanc Forest, which the Beresfords held under Le Despencer, may have given Aden de Beresford some of his power with the King. For power he had, as we may now see.

Where the family records fail us, the public rolls supply the deficiency. In the *Plea Rolls* of 1324 we have William de Cheddleton arraigned as a common malefactor and disturber of the peace, and a maintainer of false quarrels, and that he collected unknown malefactors and rode armed about the country to the terror of the people, and he was of the society of James and John sons of William de Stafford and had insulted the Abbot of Deulacres three years before, so that the Abbot dared not leave the doors of his monastery. Moreover the said William with some others had entered the park of Thomas de Furnival of Alton and had taken one of his beasts. (H. S. C., X. 50.)

This was no doubt a political quarrel. William de Cheddleton was a most turbulent subject during the reign of Edward II. but one of the best in the reign of Edward III.—a better king. When he was now arraigned for his outbreak he was committed to prison until Vivian de Standon, William de Chetwynde, John de Ipstones, James son of William de Stafford, and Adam de Beresford came and paid his fine, and were sureties for his good behaviour even to the extent of risking all they had. And a great risk it was. For Cheddleton soon broke out again. The very next year he headed a band consisting of his brothers, with Thomas son of Ralph de Rudyerd, and others, and beat William Maunche, the servant of the Abbot of Deulacres, at Leek. (H. S. C., X. 51.) And again Adam de Beresford, William de Beresford, and two others, rescue him by becoming sureties.

About the year 1324, a famous quarrel broke out between the lord of Ipstones and "the lady of Ingestre" with regard to the advowson of Church Eaton, near Stafford. Both church and manor-house there were besieged, and some blood was shed. The county was divided into two hostile camps; but the culprits, on being brought to trial, were told that they might escape prison if they could find persons of "sufficient" weight to bail them out. Adam de Beresford, amongst others, performed this good office for Isabella, the lady of Ingestre, together with several who were implicated among whom are sundry Astons, Rudyerds, Cheddletons, and Chetwyndes, with Peter le Barbour, Stephen de Beghtirton, John le Mercer with one eye, etc. (H. S. C., X., 72, 73, 74.)

With Vivian de Standon, William de Chetwynd, John de Ipstones, and James, son of William de Stafford, Adam de Beresford is bail for James de Stafford, accused and pardoned for the death of a Swynnerton. (H. S. C., VII., 23.)

Often indeed Aden de Beresford rescued others but happily never needed rescue himself! His prudent character must be recognised. Whatever influence he had with the authorities may have been gained by the way in which his public duties were discharged. So through that most troubled time he pursued the even tenour of his way. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

Perhaps in passing, we should note the reconciliation effected between the King and Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, in 1318; some small share in which, it is just possible, Aden de Beresford may have taken. The chronicler of Croxden, our chief North Staffordshire mediæval historian, puts the reconciliation at Leek; and whilst it is certain that the Earl of Lancaster then made great use of the fleur de lys on his armorial bearings, it is equally remarkable that on the earliest existing carved shield of the Beresfords, rescued from neglect and given by the present writer to Bentley church, the flower of France occupies the second quarter—perhaps in allusion to this time. The Leek mentioned by the Croxden historian must have been near Loughborough; but the chronicler may have known of some Moorlands association. Moreover, the castle of Hartington, which then belonged to the Earl of Lancaster, was within sight and sound of Beresford tower, and Aden de Beresford was, as we have seen,

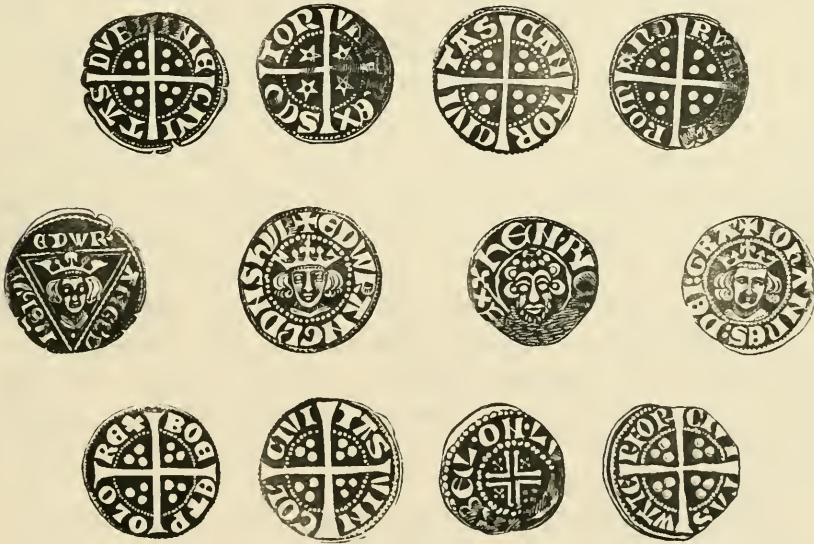


Beresford Arms

A Jacobean Sculpture found in fragments at Fenny Bentley Tower by the Writer in 1879, and given to Bentley Church in 1892. The former owner had purchased it at the sale of the late Mr. Lucas's effects at Fenny Bentley New Hall. The crest is a fragment of the Bear's Paw. The stone used is smooth and hard and beautifully cut. It was pieced together and framed by the Writer whilst Vicar of S. Chad's, Stafford. The Bear's Paw was used by Sampson Beresford, *ob.* 1593, but was apparently then abandoned for the Dragon's Head Crest.

frequently at Tutbury, Lancaster's head-quarters on the Dove.

It may be worth mention also that after the great find of coins at Tutbury in 1831, when Thomas, Earl of Lancaster's, treasure was discovered in the bed of the Dove, a find of similar mediæval silver pennies was also made in 1867 at Boosley Grange, in Malbanc forest, and within an easy walk of Beresford. These coins were investigated by the present writer at the time, and some of them compared with the wood-blocks of the Tutbury coins which came into his possession a little later, and of which we print a few specimens here.



The Boosley coins were found whilst a field at Boosley was being dug over, and they vividly show that the

unrest of those sad times extended into the Moorlands. This could not be otherwise; Hartington Castle, in the days of Henry III, belonged to Ferrers, Earl of Derby. "Robert, Earl Ferrers, was presented in 1285," says Dr Cox in the *Victoria History of Derby*, "for having in 1264 with a great company of knights and others, hunted in the Campana Forest on 7 July, and taken forty head of deer and driven away another forty out of the forest; and on 1 August took fifty and drove away about seventy; and again on 29th September took forty and drove away a like number. This hunting was planned on a wholesale scale; for thirty-eight (accomplices) were named in the presentment, and there were many others, as well as the Earl himself, who were dead before the Eyre was held (in 1285). . . It was in 1264, in the very thick of the baronial civil war. . . On 12 May was fought the battle of Lewes, when the King's forces under Prince Edward were defeated by those of the barons. For two or three years after that date, as an old chronicler has it, 'there was grievous perturbation in the centre of the realm.' . . The three incursions made into the Peake forest in July, August, and September, following the battle of Lewes, were undertaken by Robert Ferrers and his allies (issuing from his great manor house at Hartington) much more to show contempt for the King and to get booty, than for any purpose of sport."

But the Earl's disloyalty cost him his Castle of Hartington which was forfeited to the Crown and bestowed upon the Earl of Lancaster. Peace, however, did not therefore return to this troubled district, as we

have seen; and during the fierce struggle between Edward II. and his cousin of Lancaster, when the latter fled from Burton Bridge, Hartington Castle would be taken *en route* by the unlucky Earl Thomas in his flight up the Valley of the Dove. Still later, the possessions of the Le Despencers were added to those of the Earls of Lancaster. Both sides of the Dove thus came under the same supreme Lord; and then one of the great duties of the Beresfords—that of keeping open the fords on the Dove—would fall into abeyance.

But we must now return to Beresford itself.

In 1327 Aden appears on the *Subsidy Roll* as paying *vj.s.* towards the cost of the Scotch War, and is followed next on the list by William Moykoc (Mycock) who pays *iiij.s.* (H. S. C., VII., 218.)

And for a similar purpose in 1333, he paid *vij.s. iv.d.*, a larger sum than anybody else in the district except a neighbour of his own, John Falle-in-the-Wall, who paid the same. The latter may have been a keen wool-stapler or have got the name by tumbling into a well. (H. S. C., X. pt. 1., 116.)

The searching enquiries, made on the accession of Edward III. in 1327, revealed terrible irregularities on the part of the deceased Le Despencers, but Aden de Beresford came well out of them. The *Patent Rolls* (York, June 26, 1327, m. 9.) record only this against him, "that Richard, son of William Martin, had in the time of Edward I. acquired in fee without license a messuage and land in Nether Haddon from Robert Basset, tenant in chief, by the yearly service of six shillings and eightpence. Adam de Beresford and John

Tailor had bought half these premises and were pardoned."³

The last events in Aden's life were of sinister promise for the welfare of his heir. The Plea Rolls De Banco, 1339, shew John le Porter of Caldlowe suing John, son of Adam de Beresford for a debt of £10, and the defendant not appearing. The debt looks uncommonly like a failure to make an attempt at mining pay, and as if Aden had refused to embark in a rash undertaking of his son's. (H. S. C., XI., 86.)

It is not until the end of Aden's life that we become acquainted with the name of his wife, Beatrice. All circumstances point to her being one of the Staffords of Sandon.⁴ She was an heiress in fee of property in Alstonfield, and so were these Staffords. Her husband was a surety for Lady Stafford, for persons living near Sandon and Stone, and for the two Staffords who killed Alexander de Swynnerton. Henceforth a close link exists between the Staffords and the Beresfords. Beresford goes to live at Enstone, just over the Trent from Sandon; and by Erdeswick's time Enstone had become "a great seat of the Beresfords." The young men of the two families go to the wars together; Ralph de Stafford and Robert de Beresford having letters of protection to follow Hugh de Audley to Scotland in June, 1335. (H. S. C., VIII., 54.)

³ Aden once broke into the Miller's house at Grindon, but it was because the miller would not pay his rent.

⁴ Isabella de Stafford of Ashburne conveys property there to Rob. de Clifton D 41), and in a deed belonging to Mr. J. H. White of London, Humph. de Stafford, Knt., attorns Ric. de Beresford and W. his son to give seizin of some lands in Hope. 11, Hen. IV.

Altogether there seems some closer link of union than the fact that the Staffords were overlords of Narrowdale lying in sight of Beresford. But as long as Aden lived he seems to have placed a veto on any lawsuit which might have arisen out of his wife's claims. As soon as he was dead, however, less peaceful counsels prevailed; and the following record—which, by the way, confirms Blore's Pedigree in a remarkable way at this point—seems to show that Aden in his old age had to adopt very strong measures to restrain the spirit of his son. The Plea Rolls of 1341 state that Walter Folvyll sued John, son of Adam de Beresforde, and Adam and John, sons of the said John, Hugh, son of Adam de Beresford, and Thomas, brother of Hugh, John Balle of Werslowe, Giles Jones, servant, and Henry Kauwe, both of Beresford, and others for breaking into his close at Werslowe and cutting down trees and taking his goods and chattels to the value of 100 shillings. They did not appear; but next year the Sheriff returns that Folvyll appeared by attorney against John de Beresford, Beatrice de Beresford, John son of Adam de Beresford, Thomas, son of Adam de Beresford, and John Dovelot of Werslowe for this offence, and that John had been attached by Richard de Beresford and Adam de Beresford, and that Beatrice was dead, but she was not dead, and they were all to be arrested. (H. S. C., XIV., 57, XII., 17, 18.)

In 1343 the Sheriff is ordered to enquire whether a messuage and eight acres of land in Alstonfield were free alms appurtenant to the Church of Combermere of which the Abbott was the parson, or the lay fee

of Beatrice, formerly wife of Adam de Beresford, and of John de Beresford her son,⁵ This suit reminds us of the earlier one of 1227 when Philippa de Malbanc had made the same or a similar claim and not only directly tells us whose widow Beatrice de Beresford was, but shows indirectly a connection between her and the Malbanc family, which most probably came through the Staffords. It is pleasant to think that for once John de Beresford may have been in the right; for a house and eight acres of land appear again in our family records at a much later date. But in 1343 Aden is dead.⁶


5 H. S. C., XII., 12. This could hardly have been a claim for dower. See the case of 1361 below.

6 Before quitting this period, that during which the Staffords appear in connection with the Beresfords, we may note an interesting discovery of ancient terraces near Beresford but on Narrowdale Farm. They overlook the site of Beresford Hall, and are five or six in number, one above the other on the western slope of a spur of Gratton Hill, and are of pre-historic character. The fact that such terraces are generally found linked with a rock shelter, connects them rather with Beresford and its caves than with Narrowdale where the Staffords held property. They lie on land attached to the Narrowdale "manor house" occupied down to comparatively recent days by a branch of the Rudyard family, but now swept away. These terraces have a water-supply of their own, and it is said that a cave exists in the hill just above them, but we have not yet had the opportunity to examine it, having only noted the character of the spot when finding it, in company with Colonel G. W. Beresford, in the autumn of 1905.

[We may now, Whitsuntide, 1906, add that the writer has visited the terraces again, and that he had the good fortune to meet there with Mr. Bonsall of Narrowdale, a neighbour of Mr. Adams who first pointed out the unusual character of the spot. Mr. Bonsall took the writer to the supposed cave; but it can never have been occupied by other than foxes, wolves, or rabbits. An ancient cell, however, exists in the field, excavated in the hill and once roofed over. The terraced work goes up to the top of the hill, and a natural amphitheatre at the top was probably the scene of cock-fighting, since the terraced field is still "The Cock Piece," or "Cock Glade." Though sheltered from the winds, this amphitheatre commands a glorious view towards Malbanc Forest, and it may have been the chosen spot for many an athletic and soldierly contest in old times. On the day of the writer's visit, streams

CHAPTER V.

The Later Middle Age: Peace and War.

 OHN DE BERESFORD, it is recorded, fought against the Scotch in 1310¹ and must therefore have been advanced in life before coming into his estate. In his early manhood he lived at Hartington. It would seem that Aden de Beresford, his father, became infirm before the year 1338. In that year an *Inquisition Post Mortem*, was taken as to the property of Sir Roger de Swynnerton, lately dead. This Inquisition throws so much light on the history of the Moorlands in connection with the Le Despencers that we transcribe it almost wholly from Canon Bridgman's *History of the Family of Swynnerton de Swynnerton* in our *William Salt Collections*. (Vol. VII., Part 2, 33, etc.)

The Writ was dated from the Tower of London, 13 March, 12 Edward III., 1338, and addressed to William Trussell, King's Escheator *Citra Trentam*,—the Judge who condemned the Le Despencers. The

of people were passing along Beresford Lane to the Dale from the Light Railway at Hulme End. This proof of life returning to the neighbourhood much gratified the writer as one of the earliest though perhaps the humblest promoters of that railway. Mr. Bonsall also confirmed the tradition which Dr. Cox had from Mr Beresford Hope, that wolves once roamed the district; and he gave, also, some account of the strange solitary grave by the Sheen roadside, not far from the north-west corner of Beresford manor, in which his great-uncle Bonsall, a straw-hat maker at Manchester, was buried in 1819.]

¹ Scotch Roll, 1314-1315; H. S. C., VIII., 31, 34. William de Beresford was at Bannockburn with the le Despencers, Verdons, Grindons, etc.

Inquisition was taken at Newcastle-under-Lyme on the 20th March, 12 Edward III, on the oath of Ralph de Grendon, Richard de Verneye, William de Chavelton (? Cheddleton) Ralph Burgilon, John de Beresford, Thomas de Rodeyerd, Adam de Narwedale, Robert de Cotes, Henry de Hextal, William de Huggefurd, Richard le Onyleye, and Roger de Knighteleye. They stated that Roger de Swynnerton, the deceased, did not hold any lands or tenements *in capite* of the King when he died; but he held certain lands and tenements in Rushton, Quarford, Austanfield [Alstonfield] and Caldon, in the County of Stafford, by the grant of the King, which tenements had come into the King's hands by the forfeiture of Hugh le Despencer, late Earl of Wynton [Winchester], to be held by the said Roger and his heirs of the Lord the King and other capital lords of the fees by the same services by which they had been held before the said forfeiture. Le Despencer held at Rushton £8 of rent proceeding from free tenants, and the pleas and perquisites of the Court there were worth twelve pence annually; it was held of the Abbot of Dieulacresse by the service of a pound of pepper annually; and he held in the vill of Corneford [Quarford] a several pasture on the moors, which he had demised to William atte Bekke for a term of his life at twenty shillings; and he held at Alstonfield the third of the vill, in which there was no messuage, land, meadow or pasture; but he had rents of assize of the free tenants amounting to £12 annually; and the pleas and perquisites of the Court were worth ten shillings annually; and he held at Cauldon rents of assize worth

thirty shillings annually; and no other services or profits; and they say that the said tenements at Corneford [Quarnford] were held of James D'Audley by the service of two arrows annually; and the third part of the vill of Alstonfield was held of Henry, Earl of Lancaster, by the service of the third part of a Knight's fee, &c.

It is thus clear that Le Despencer before the catastrophe of 1323 had got the barren third of Alstonfield which Phillipa de Malbanc had held. When forfeited to the Crown it was kept for awhile in the King's hands and then bestowed by Edward on the new Earl of Lancaster, Swynnerton being made in fact under-tenant. Swynnerton drew £12 from the free tenants. The grant of all Le Despencer's rights in Alstonfield would probably carry the co-parceny share of the nominal overlordship of Beresford with it. It would place the Beresfords as Sergeants of Malbanc Forest in the new Earldom of Lancaster, but it would not and did not reduce them to any further subjection to Swynnerton, the mediate lord, than to continue their sergeancy and to go on paying the nominal rent of fourteen pence, which they had hitherto paid to the lords in co-parceny. They held under the socage tenure, and were free from the obligation of foreign military service. Nevertheless, as we shall see below, the younger members of the family constantly went out to fight their country's battles.

Several Deeds of John de Beresford's time have come down to us and have a special interest both as shewing that the lands near Broncote, on the Leek side of the Forest, were not sold without the Forester being invited to be a witness, and also as giving us a second

notice of the subsequently illustrious family of Bagnall, of which came the Sir Ralph Bagnal to whom Dieulacresse Abbey was granted. Of the Bagnall family, Fuller remarked that no transaction could take place in the Moorlands without the Bagnalls being called in as witnesses; and we shall see that his words were not without warrant. For two centuries at least we meet with them in these pages.

A Deed of 1341 is preserved at Calke Abbey in which Henry, son of John Golde, senior, grants to his father, John Golde, senior, Netherfield in Bramcote, Henry de Rudyerde, John de Beresforde, Ralph de Narowdale, William Scheravel, Ralph de Tetesworth, and others being witnesses.

John de Beresford in the same year witnesses a grant of John Golde to Thomas Bagenhold and Isolda his wife of a parcel of land called Overfield, which he had by gift of William, son of Ralph de Bagenholde.

About the same time John de Beresford witnesses a grant of lands in Overhulme, close to Broncote, from John Golde to Thomas de Bagenhold, together with a large house standing thereon.

John did not survive the Black Death of the year 1349, and we have no further special notice of him, except in two items mentioned in No. 98 of the Beresford Deeds, till now, April, 1906, held by Mr. Drury. Thus: "Edward III, John de Beresford Dom^s de Beresforde 20 Edward III., 1346 John de Beresford, Hugo de Beresforde."

ADYN DE BERESFORD.—In the year 1350, the Earl of Chester, Prince of Wales, cited Adyn de Beresford,

a Fernyhough, a Rudyerd, and others for unnamed and perhaps forest offences. They did not appear. (H. S. C., XVI., 9.)

This Aden had a short life. In 1361, as the Plea Rolls show, his widow Agnes, Thomas de Cholmundelewe, parson of Lauton, Richard de Botteslowe, chaplain, and John, son of Stephen de Sutton, were guardians of his heir, John de Beresford, a minor, and were summoned by Sir Thomas de Swynnerton for abducting the said heir from Beresford. Sir Thomas said the marriage of the heir belonged to him. But, unless nearly related to the heir, he was clearly in the wrong. Beresford was held in soke and not by military service; so none of the defendants appeared, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain those who had found sureties and to arrest the others. Nothing more serious came of it. (H. S. C., XIII., 12, 17.)

This, however, was not the only trouble these guardians had. Emma, formerly wife of John de Beresford, sued them for a third of three messuages, a mill, two carucates of land, and ten acres of meadow in Alstonfield, and twenty shillings rent in the same vill as her dower. She was apparently widow of John who died about 1350. Perhaps a young second wife.

In the same year, Thomas, son of William de Beresford, breaks into their houses at Alstonfield and burns their timber to the value of one hundred shillings. Here was another unsatisfied family claim asserted in the usual contemporary fashion. (H. S. C., XIII., 47.)

The failure of the Swynnertons in 1361 to reduce the Beresfords to military service or near relationship

seems to have led to reprisals against at least the junior branch of the family. Henry Beresford of Leek was in 1363 sued by the Swynnertons and a Pole of Hartington for breaking into their free chase at Alstonfield and trespassing after game. The ancient forest had in their opinion now become a "chase." (H. S. C., XIII., 39.) We shall presently see how the senior Beresfords regarded this.

One is glad to notice that the young heir of Beresford was left in religious guardianship, and glad, too, to learn the name of the chaplain at Beresford; for the manor is shut off from Alstonfield by the Narrowdale hills. But the chapel at Beresford has another interest also for us besides its suggestion that the family were not without the means of worship on days too wet for the journey to Alstonfield. For in every old forest there was "the house of justice," the mansion house of the chief forester, which was provided with a chapel.

And, happily, we have found an almost contemporaneous Deed, one of 1403, copied into a Bible² of 1613, which shews that the Beresfords willingly bore a full share of parochial burdens. Indeed Basford [Beresford] and the High Frith paid more to the mother church of Alstonfield than Longnor, Warslow, and Elkstones, combined, perhaps because the latter three had to support their own parochial chapels. They were "chapelries" and Beresford had simply its private or

² Formerly belonging to the Brunt family of High Ash in the heart of Malbanc Forest, and now to Mr. W. Johnson of Leek, who kindly lent it to the writer. This Deed is in the handwriting of the Mr. William Condlyffe, solicitor, grandson of another William Condlyffe who practised at Leek for some *sixty* years before 1790, and was solicitor to the vendor of Beresford, c. 1727, and to Captain John Beresford of Beresford and Bentley, and to the principal Beresfords remaining near Leek, 1725-1790.

family chapel. The Deed perhaps shows that Beresford was then no longer reckoned part of Warslow. It runs:—

“ALLSTONEFIELD PARISH. In the year of our Lord god a thousand four hundred and three. And in the first (? fifth) year of King Henry the fourth MEMOR. That all general payments either for the reparation of the parish church or ells for the maintainance of the Kings Majesties wars, that have been of old time accustomed to be paid either by a generall storing of every mans goods, or ells after there church lay, and the sum of one whole church lay iij.l. and that hath been of ould time accustomed to be paid, and soe continued as thus: first the Inhabitances beneath Archford Bridge Thirteen Shillings fourpence. Item: the Inhabitances of the high frith and Basford [Beresford] foure nobles. Item: the Inhabitances of Warslow seaven shillings and one pennie. Item: The Inhabitances of both Elkstones seaven shillings and one pennie. Item: It is to be remembered that the taxk or fifteenth of seaven pounds six shillings eight pence was of ould time used to be levied gathered and paid in three equal parts: Whereof the inhabitances beneath Archford Bridge to pay one parte—and the inhabitances of high Frith and Basford [Beresford] to pay the second parte. And the inhabitances of Longnor Warslow and neather Elkstone to pay the third, and last parte, And the premises were written in an ould text masse booke in forme aforesaid, and to the intent the may be had in remembrance continually. Now are all the premises aforesaid—indented and in three parts whereof the first part remains in the custody of William Goold of Harbache and the second part being indented

at both sides remains in the custody of William Hall of Stanshoppe, and the third parte being Indented from the nether end of the lines of the said second parte remains in the custody of William Yate of Longnor: Theire witnesse and psent: p. Richard Smith curate, Lawrence Beresford, John Beresford Gentlemen, Humphery Bagnald, Humphery Pedley, Jeoffrey Rawley, John Stones, Singlemen, William Hall, Richard Foole, John Stones, Richard Johnson, Henry Titterton, Will. Gould, William Millward, Thomas Bomford, Richard Salt, Richard Harlows, with many others more at the Indenting hereof and the delivery of the same in forme aforesaid being the xvth. day of March and in xvth. year of the raigne of our Soverigne Lady Elizz by the grace of God Queen of England—France and Ireland defender of the Faith &c."

This has been thus summarized by the Rev. E. A. Beresford :

Paid by the Inhabitants.	Church Lay	Fifteenth or War Tax
	£ 3.	£ 7 6 8
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1. Below Archford Bridge ...	0 13 4	2 8 10 ² / ₃
2. High Frith and Basford ...	1 6 8	2 8 10 ² / ₃
3. Longnor 5/10, Warslow 7/1		
Elkstone 7/1	1 0 0	2 8 10 ² / ₃
	<hr/> £ 3 0 0	<hr/> £ 7 6 8

This fact that Beresford was a distinct manor, here called Basford, and had its own chaplain may be illustrated by another fact. Families who did not quite care

to take up Knighthood nevertheless often sent a younger member at their own expense to the wars as archer or spearman. These "bows and lances" were gentlemen and mounted—often the younger sons of knightly families next in rank after the knight. (H. S. C., XVIII., Part 2, 3.) The Queen's Remembrancer Rolls (Army Bundle 51, H. S. C., XIV., 230), record that when the Earl of Buckingham, in the years 1380-81, led an expedition into France, amongst the archers under William de Wyndesore were John Beresford and William Stafford, who claimed wages from 28 June, 1381, to the following second of March. In the force were twelve knights, one hundred and six squires, and two hundred archers. The pay of a knight was two shillings a day, of an esquire one shilling and that of an archer sixpence. A force under a bannerette consisted of so many spears, and so many bows. And such a mounted archer or spearman was the Thomas Beresford of Agincourt, to whose times we are coming. And one must not forget the close connection which we saw between the Aden Beresford of 1300-1341 and the famous William de Cheddleton, and that the latter was trusted by the King to collect the Cheshire bowmen for the Black Prince. So close and valiant an ally would tend to stimulate archery at Beresford and on the hill above the terraced slope of Gratton.

ADAM DE BERESFORD. We have already pointed out the probable connection between the Beresfords and the Fitz Adams of Waterfall and Grindon and stated that the lands at these places were, soon after the Conquest, apparently divided between both families. In 1398, Adam de Beresford has to defend his rights at Grindon.

He sues three brothers of the name of Woodgryme for breaking into his closes and houses at Grindon and cutting down his trees to the value of one hundred shillings, and treading down and consuming his grass with their cattle to the value of forty shillings. Like other defendants they do not appear. (Plea Rolls, H. S. C., XVI., 52.)

ADDENDUM.

Our readers will permit us to insert a note here on an event of much importance, namely the return back again to the Beresford family of the Drury Deeds. These deeds, some two hundred in number, were, as we have already stated, most of them left at Bentley Hall by Captain Richard Beresford, when nearly a hundred years ago, he sold his Derbyshire estates; and it is pleasant, at this point of our history, to be able to record their acquisition (by purchase from Mr. Drury) by Dr. William Hugh Beresford, one of the band of brothers who now represent the Newton Grange and Fenny Bentley branches of which Captain Richard, their great-uncle, was the careless head. As a matter of coincidence it may also be recorded that their transference came about through the revelation of the existence of these Deeds having been most kindly made by Mr. Drury to the present writer some years ago. By a not unnoticeable further coincidence the writer was at the moment of the transference staying at Newton Grange, where the Deeds had lain for centuries. We still quote them however, under the letter "D."

THE BERESFORDS OF LEEK.

The Beresfords of Leek were an early offshoot from Beresford as we have already seen. On May 7, 1316, an assize was held at Tamworth to ascertain whether William de Beveresford, Richard son of William de Bentele, and Thomas son of Elias de Nedham and seven others, had not unjustly disseized Hugh de Prestwold of half the Manor of Sheen. This was Bentley's quarrel, and William de Beresford of Leek simply helped him. The jury found against them; and Bentley and Beresford were only rescued from prison by Adam de Beveresford and his ally William Shirard or De Cheddleton, who became surety for half a mark. (H. S. C., IX., 61.) In the document, D98, William is called the brother of Hugh de Beresford and has a daughter Juliana.

In the twenty-first year of Edward I., 1293, he was one of a Jury of Enquiry for the Hundred of Totmonslow, and as late as 1347 his name appears as a witness on a Deed in which John de Rudyerd gave to Henry his brother a burgage in the town of Leek. (Harl. MSS., 128, f. 97. H. S. C., VI., pt. 1, 257.)


In 17 Edward III., 1343, he sues Thomas, lord of Overton of Bydulf, and Thomas his heir for a debt of £4. (H. S. C., XII., 25.)

In 1378 a strange event happened at Leek in a faction fight between the authorities of the town and the people of Ipstones. An Ipstones man, John de Warton, seems to have insulted some official of the town, and his murder resulted; but so many persons were implicated, that a public enquiry was held before Ralph de Vernoun,

Chivaler, and other Justices. They found that a gang of men had come armed into the town and had captured Warton and kept him prisoner for a time and then beheaded him on Leek Moor by command of William de Lichefield, Abbot of Dieulacres, and had taken from his chamber in Leek a jack of fustian worth twenty shillings, a bow and arrows, a brazelle of silver worth thirteen shillings and fourpence, a horse with a saddle worth ten shillings, and other goods to the value of fourpence. The Abbot, his cellarer, Edmund de Draycote, William del Brugge, Vicar of Leek, Robert de Beresford and William Dyke had received the gang. The Abbot and the cellarer escaped with the King's pardon after much difficulty and many adventures. So did Dyke and the Vicar. How Beresford fared is not stated. But enough is known to indicate that the Leek Beresfords shared the risk and burden of local government with the Abbot and the Vicar. And when in 31 Edward III., 1358, certain tenements were assigned to the latter by Nicholas de Verdone de Caltone the witnesses were, Nicholas de Stafford, Knight, Roger de Bradshawe, John de ffernyhalgh, Henry de Beresford, and others. (*History of Leek*, 80, H. S. C., XIV., 153-4, and New Series, IX., 297.)

CHAPTER VI.

Prudence and Progress.

E come now to the period when Thomas Beresford left the parental roof at Beresford to settle at Newton Grange, and eventually to found the families not only of Newton Grange and Fenny Bentley but those also of the Marquis of Waterford and others.

The Aden de Beresford who died before 1361 left a widow, Agnes, and a son, John, not then of age. This John was one of the mounted archers with William de Wyndesore in France in 1381. (H. S. C., XIV., part I 230.) The List of Deeds, D98, tells us that his wife, Cecilia, was alive in 1407 and 1408. And their eldest son, John, married Elizabeth, daughter of William Basset, one of the great Staffordshire family of that name; and John and Elizabeth were the parents of Thomas of Newton Grange

And now again the old wariness of the family became necessary; for once again the quarrels of the Crown narrowly affected Beresford. The great struggle was beginning in which the over-lord of Beresford and Hartington, the Duke of Lancaster, ousted Richard II. from the throne. Richard confiscated the estates of the Duke of Lancaster in 1399, and was himself deposed within the year. But the Cheshire bowmen, with whom the Beresfords were so closely linked, were the strong arm on which the old dynasty leaned. The struggle,

therefore, was between loyalty to the deposed Plantagenet monarch and duty to the usurping House of Lancaster, who was supreme lord of Alstonfield.

The struggle must have been intensely felt in the Staffordshire Moorlands. But Beresford's caution was equal to the occasion. We come across a curious succession of Deeds executed by him. In 1402 he writes: "Know all men that I, John de Beresford give and by this my present charter concede to Adem de Newbigging, Vicar of Hertyngham, Richard Palmer, Vicar of the church of Alstonfield, Stephen de Orton, Vicar of the church of Polesworth, and Thomas Byllock chaplain, all lands, tenements, rents and services thereto pertaining, which in anyway I have within the counties of Derby and Stafford in Beresford, Narrowdale, Alstonfield, Warslow, with the forestership; and in Mawbon (Malbanc) Fryth, in Wolfscote, Bakewell and in Ashburn, with all that pertains to them, to have and to hold the same from the capital lords of the fees by accustomed service under warranty from the said John. These being witnesses, Richard de Beresford, John de Hope, Henry de Bagnold, William de Eyton, John Clerke of Alstonfield and others. Dated at Beresford at the Feast of the Purification of the blessed Mary, in the third year of the reign of King Henry the IV., 1402." (M.S. copy by Captain John Beresford.¹)

In 1408, he dates on the Feast of the Purification, an Indenture between himself, John de Beresford, on the

¹ Captain John Beresford of the Newton Grange branch bought Beresford back in 1681 from Joseph Wodehouse, to whom Cotton had sold it, and made copies of the ancient deeds of his ancestors, which copies are amongst the old Beresford Deeds restored by Mr. Drury to the family.

one part and Nicholas de Ker on the other part, that the said Nicholas shall hold from him one messuage with buildings upon it and two bovates of land in Alstonfeld to the end of the life of Sabine, wife of the said Nicholas, etc., with certain stipulations for the payment of a heriot, the witnesses being Henry Cowper, Roger son of Aden, John, son of Robert, John Pole, John de Eyton and others.

John de Beresford was himself an archer, as we know. Now, in 1411 a force of archers was sent into France by Henry IV. Did John refuse to go and thus make himself obnoxious again to the Lancastrian King? It seems like it; for he has again to put his estates in trust. D110, like the last two, is a copy of a deed made by Captain John Beresford, in which at Alstonfield in 1411, John de Beresford confirms to Aden his younger son, all lands, tenements, rents, and services, which he has in the ville and fields of Alstonfield with the office of Forester in the forest of Mawbon fryth, with Housebote (the right to cut timber for repairs), Heybote (the right to take thorns and wood for hedges, gates and fences) and common of pasture in the said forest for *thirteen* cows and a bull, *thirteen* mares and a stallion, *thirteen* swine and a boar to three years old, rendering to the capital lord ijd. for all services, the service of the King excepted. Neither goats, which were obnoxious to deer, nor sheep, which were barely tolerated in a forest, are mentioned.

Another deed of the year 1411 conceded to Aden, son of John de Beresford, all the said John's services and tenements in the ville and fields of Beresford and

Narrowdale, the said Aden and his heirs to hold the property, paying annually to the capital lords of the fee twelve pence or twelve broad arrows with a quiver at the Feast of S. Michael, The heirs of Narrowdale to render annually to the heirs of Beresford, viz., in two years both years three shillings and in the third year five shillings or a young beast having horns and ears of equal length by the service called *le Scuth*. The witnesses were John de la Pole of Hertingdon, Richard de Beresford, John de Hope, Reginald Spyart and others. Dated at Beresford, the Conversion of S. Paul, 13 Hen. IV., 1412.

The same year, on the feast of S. Lucy, a deed was drawn up at Hartington wherein John Jackson, Vicar of Alstonfield, William de Wythall, Rector of Kersington, William de Eyton, Rector of Thorpe, William de Duffield, William Ragg, Thomas Dawkyn, John de Buckstones, Thomas Byllock, Henry Sowter, Henry Ball and John Benting, Chaplains, appoint their beloved in Christ Adam de Newbigging, Vicar of the church of Hertyngdon, their attorney for receiving, etc., all the rents, etc., of the lands, etc., belonging to John de Beresford in the ville and fields of Wolfscote. This deed was witnessed by John Waryn, John Hardyng, Edmund de Hall and others.

The confidence shewn by John de Beresford in following a prevalent custom in making over his property to the clergy in these unconditional deeds was not misplaced. No confiscation took place; and in due time John the heir succeeded, for Aden, the second son, died without issue. The clergy were strongly Lancastrian in

sympathy; but this did not prevent John from trusting them. Local sympathies were stronger than national politics; and a faithful son of the Church could often entrench himself in the protection of the clergy when all other friends were powerless to help him.

So when in 1411 John had made over his Alstonfield property to his younger son, Aden, he had been able to enlarge his estate eastwards, and to purchase from John Lucas, of Wolfstancote, all right to five acres of land in Wolstancote, of which one acre lay between the lands of the said John Beresford on the one part, and those of John Heathcote on the other, with all woods and waters, easements, paths, etc., and all places under the earth and above the earth. The original deeds are now in the Drury Collection. Fifty-eight years later, as we are told in D98, John de Beresford, perhaps a grandson of this John, obtained by grant a relaxation from John Pole of Hartington of an annual rent of xvijj.d. arising from a tenement in Wolfscote.

John must have lived to see his children's children. His son John must have married Elizabeth Basset long before 1411, for their second son, Thomas,² is said traditionally to have fought at Agincourt in 1415. It would seem, then, that the Beresfords only resisted their chief-lord's right to the Kingdom during the reign of Henry IV. Henry V. thoroughly won their allegiance, as he did that of the whole kingdom, and the younger sons of the house again went forth with their Cheshire comrades to fight their country's battles, and to follow the Red Rose to the end.

2 Tomb at Fenny Bentley.

Thomas Beresford settled at Newton Grange, and became the ancestor of the most enduring and prosperous branches of the family. But his history and that of his descendants living in Derbyshire demand separate treatment later on.

Peace and development continued during the too-brief reign of Henry V., but John Beresford, the elder, scarcely survived the agitations through which he had passed under Henry IV.

The policy of extension was continued for awhile at Beresford. The List of Deeds (D98) tells us that John and Thomas Beresford in 1429 purchased lands in Heathcote—the wild land north-east of Wolfscote. In 1430, John Beresford de Beresford and Richard Beresford de Ashholme are mentioned³ in a deed of which, happily, we have a copy. It certifies that William Mabby of Longford, County Derby, and Joanna his wife, confirmed to John Beresford of Beresford all the lands they had in the fee of Warslow by the gift of John Stele of Warslow; to be held by the services owing to the chief lord. Witnesses: Richard de Beresford of Assheholme, Nicholas de Schene of Schene and John Martyn of Butterton. On the scrap of the seal tag are the words: "It is agreed by this indenture that John de la Pole of Hertyngham give to John Sterndale of Sterndale the manor of Buxton." A branch of the De la Poles lived at Hartington in the middle ages, their old moated home being still known as Pole Hall.

The late Mr. Beresford-Hope had this deed and also another which introduces a new Beresford to our

notice. It is one of the Deeds mentioned in the List, D98, and records that on the 17th day of Pentecost, 26 Henry VI. (1448) to the Court held at Alstonfield came John son of John de Beresford and took from the lord *in coi* [? Co-parceny] one messuage with all its appurtenances called Daykenstall formerly in possession of William Shene to be held according to the right of the custom of the manor of Fryth for the whole of this life, and remainder to his brother William and after him to Henry his brother. Sealed by John Harrison, Seneschall.

Lodge's Peerage of 1754, Vol. II., p. 209, tells us that Henry and William both died childless. They were younger sons of John Beresford and Elizabeth Basset. The Basset marriage brought anything but peace with it.

In these Deeds the Forestership is clearly recorded, but the sergeancy of the hills has by this time disappeared and become merged in the socage tenure. The duties devolving on the forester were those of keeping some sort of ward over both the game and the timber. Deer still roamed over the hills or were driven into the booths near Longnor. The forester must have had many an encounter with moss-troopers and poachers. But though neither bows nor unmained dogs were usually allowed in a forest, the Beresfords cultivated archery as we have seen; and though they held no forest-courts, they had certain rights connected with their duties—the right to all trees blown down by tempest, to all loppings of trees felled, and to certain parts of the venison killed, over and above the pasturing of the herds of thirteen mentioned a little while ago. But in

the period last reviewed, it seems that the old order was rapidly giving way to the new; and that the old families were planting their sons out as farmers of granges, or traders in the moorland wool, or even lead mining. Thus Thomas Beresford went to Newton Grange early in the fifteenth century; and a little later, Gateham Grange near Beresford, as well as Enstone Grange near Stafford—all under the kindly Abbey of Combermere,—afforded homes for the various branches of the family.

It was also about this time that the Sleighs took up farming at Pilsbury Grange for the monks of Merivale, and the Hurts—one of our oldest Derbyshire families—plunged into lead-mining. Weaving was early introduced into the farm houses of the Beresford estate, and in the Papers of Henry VIII., 1517, Feb. 7. (Westminster) we have a pardon for Thomas Daubeney of Warslowe, weaver, for killing Henry Beresford of Astholme. This Astholme may be the place now known as Hulme End. Even Canon James Beresford, youngest son of Thomas Beresford, of Fenny Bentley and Newton Grange, obtained a Lease in 1519 from Combermere Abbey of the parsonage of Alstonfield for eighty years, on which his brother Laurence and his heirs John and Laurence settled down, renewing the Lease in 1591 as we find in the Hatfield House papers (58-73). The Canon himself, also, did a profitable deal in timber, and the great monasteries trafficked among themselves as we hope to show presently from family documents relating to Newton Grange. But we must now return to the course of our story.

CHAPTER VII.

Wars of the Roses: Local Quarrels.



THE good days of Henry V. passed away. The succeeding monarch was but an infant when he came to the throne in 1422, and the old spirit of unrest again seized the country.

One of the next John Beresford's first recorded adventures brings to light the Flacket family, who afterwards lived at Hanson and played a part in our subsequent history. *The Plea Rolls, De Banco*, 1438, (H. S. C., n. s. III., 145,) record that Robert Holynton, the prior of St. Margaret of Calwyche, Co. Stafford, and Thomas Flacket of Calwyche, husbandman, were attached at the suit of James Olde for forcibly taking ten oxen and eight cows belonging to him at Calwyche, for which he claimed £20 as damages.¹ The defendants appeared in person and denied the trespass and injury, and appealed to a jury which was to be summoned for the Quindene of St. Michael. And John Bersford, of Bersford, Co. Stafford—*de* Beresford no longer—William Corbet of Calwyche, yeoman, Roger Perpount [Pierpoint] of Holme, Co. Notts., gentleman, and Thomas Golburn of Holme, Co. Notts., yeoman, became sureties to produce the said Thomas at the above date.

And now, with times passing from bad to worse,

¹ These cattle-lifting charges were the result of bad or no fences and jealousy of new fences.

comes into view an armed array of neighbours against each other. Six years after the above named case, Sampson Meverell, late of Throweley, Knight, John Beresford of Beresford, the younger, gentilman, William Pursgloves, Vicar of Tyddeswell, Co. Derby, John Cantrell of Alstonfield, husbondman, John Bagnall of Oncote, husbondman, and T. Wryght of Wetton, husbondman, were attached at the suit of Ralph Basset, armiger, for treading down and consuming his hay at Throweley in stacks with their cattle; and Ralph stated that on the Feast of the Nativity of the holy Mary in 21 Henry VI., 1443, they had come to Throweley with swords and bows and arrows, and had consumed and trodden down with their cattle sixty cart-loads of hay. The defendants appeared and asked for an adjournment of the case till the Octave of St. Hilary, which was granted. Ralph Basset also charged Nicholas fitz-Herberd of Norbury, armiger, and thirteen others with cutting down one hundred oaks at Snelson and carrying off two hundred loads of underwood. (H. S. C., n. s. III., 167.)

The squabble between Basset and Beresford dragged slowly along. Four years later, we read in our William Salt Society Collections, (H. S. C., n. s. III., 179) that Ralph Basset, armiger, sued John Berysford of Berysford, gentilman, William Pursgloves, Vicar of the Church of Tyddeswalle, and John Bagenhall of Onecote husbandman, for depasturing cattle on his common and grass at Grendon and Musdene. The defendants did not appear, and the Sheriff was ordered to distrain John Berysford and to arrest the others and produce them at the Quindene of St. Hilary. Fitzherbert and Bagnall, it

will be noticed, appear on the Beresford side of the quarrel.

The case seems like both a political and a family dispute and may have arisen out of some claim made on account of Elizabeth Basset, John Beresford's grandmother, or even of the Beatrice de Stafford of a remoter date. And now a great ally and probable relative of the Beresfords appears on the scene. The record continues a little further on: "John the Archbishop of Canterbury (John de Stafford) sued Ralph Basset late of Blore, armiger, Richard Basset of Tutbury, gentelman, Richard Meverell, late of Blore, gentelman, William Thornbury, late of Blore, yoman, John Cantrell of Alsfield [Alstonfield], yoman, Richard Tippyng of Great Yate, yoman, and William Goold of Grendon, yoman, for breaking into his closes and houses at Throwley and Froddeswalle. The defendants did not appear. The Sheriff was to arrest them.

Next year came further trouble from Basset. William Rufford late of Grendon, clerk, and John Bersford of Bersford, gentelman, were attached at the suit of Ralph Basset, armiger, in a plea, that they together with John the Abbot of Dieulacres, Sampson Meverell, late of Throweley, Knight, and Isabella his wife, Nicholas Mountgomery, late of Cubley, Co. Derby, armiger, Thomas Meverell, late of Throweley, gentelman, John Holys, of Moseley, gentelman, John Stathome, late of Throweley, yoman, William Londesdale, late of Throweley, yoman, and four others named, had broken into his close at Blore, on the Friday before the feast of St. Barnabas, 26 Henry VI., 1448, and had taken twelve cows, twelve

oxen, worth twenty marks, and had so beaten his servants John Hudde, John Baxdonden, and John Cole, that he had lost their services for six months afterwards, for which he claimed £40 as damages. The defendants appealed to a jury. (H. S. C., n. s. III., 185.)

The quarrel waned as time went on, but Basset appeared continually in the Courts and impleaded his neighbours. He assessed his damages at 390 marks, but a Cheadle jury cut them down to ten marks; and Ralph still went on appearing in person at every Court.

As the Rose of Lancaster blushed a deeper red and war was coming on, a graver charge was brought forward. In 1451 John Berisforde late of Berisforde, the younger, gentilman and John Cowaderey, late of Ilum, yoman, were attached by their bodies to answer the appeal of Agnes, late wife of John Taillour, for the death of her husband. She stated that, three years before, her husband was at Cheadle in Co. Stafford at the feast of S. Lawrence the Martyr, when the two accused, together with Thomas Meverell, William Lonsdale, James Mellour late of Hope, yoman, Richard Lout, late of Stanshope, labourer, and Robert Starkey, late of Fossebroke, labourer, and six others had laid in wait for her husband; and that Meverell and the others had struck him on the head; and that Beresford and Cowaderey had received and maintained the felons. The two latter appeared and appealed to a jury. Meverell, Lonsdale and others were outlawed, and Sampson Meverell of Throweley, Knight, Humphrey Haskyth of Rodburne, gentilman, and John Staley of Throweley, yoman, stood bail. The jury, however, acquitted John Berisforde of the "false

accusation" and awarded him twenty shillings damages. (*Ibid*, p. 194).

But the quarrel did not end here. At Hilary, 29 Henry VI., 1451, Ralph Basset sued Sampson Meverell, late of Throweley, Knight, and Isabella his wife, and John Beresford of Beresford, gentelman, for breaking into his close at Blore and carrying off twelve oxen and twelve cows and beating his servants. This time the defendants did not appear. (*Ibid*, p. 199, 200).

The question of the Taylor murder was very long in being settled. It came up again at Stafford in 31 Henry VI., 1453; and John Beresford again going to face it out, was committed to the Marshalsea, in Stafford, but escaped by producing the King's Letters Patent of pardon, dated 30 Oct. 31 Henry VI., 1453. (*Ibid*, p. 210). Two Meverells were indicted with him, and a Sampson Meverell was the Judge. Four years later the case again came up, when it was shown that Beresford had been acquitted by the jury at Stafford Assizes no less than seven years before. (*Ib.* 225.) The persistency of a poor widow was her only hope in those troubled times: but it is very satisfactory to know that John Beresford fully and fairly faced the charge and was as fully acquitted by his King and countrymen. This, thank God, is the only charge of murder in our local family history, and it simply arose out of the armed quarrels of the later middle ages.


John, son of John and Elizabeth (Basset) Beresford, married Elizabeth, daughter of Robert Davenport of Bramhall, Co. Chester, Esquire, as the Harl. MSS. tell us. His son John is described as being also of Enstone,

between Sandon and Stafford. Enstone was a manor belonging to the Abbey of Combermere. Apparently, like the Aden of an equally troubled time, John sought and found a bride at Sandon; for he married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh Erdeswick of Sandon, Esquire, the successor of the Staffords and Audleys there.

These records shew, even more plainly than the fact that Beresford was now held under the Lancastrian chief Lord of Alstonfield, that the family eventually espoused the Lancastrian cause and fought vigorously in their own vicinity for the Red Rose. And there are two epitaphs in Tideswell Church which illustrate the families allied with the Beresfords at the time. One is that of Bishop Robert Pursglove, born at Tideswell, last of the sumptuous priors of Gisborne, and Bishop of Hull, who died in 1579, after founding Grammar Schools at Gisborne and Tideswell—doubtless the grandson of the Vicar of Tideswell mentioned above—for our old English clergy were often married men. The other epitaph is that of Sir Sampson Meverell, 1462, who was first in the service of Lord Audley, and then in that of John Montegu, Earl of Salisbury, and afterwards of John Stafford, Archbishop of Canterbury. “Soe enduring in great worship.” Such records show plainly that although Beresford lay remote from London, its ancient lords were still as closely linked with the leading men of the later middle ages as their forefathers had been with the chieftains of the county under the early Edwards. We can hardly wonder therefore that we begin to find them oftener at Enstone than at Beresford, and that they ventured to assume a profitable interest in the Stafford courts.

CHAPTER VIII.

The Reformation Period.

HE spirit of anarchy, aggression, and destruction which breaks out in the time of civil war was illustrated in the last chapter. With quieter times and a more settled government, peace came back into the Staffordshire hills; and with the next John Beresford, who is described in the List D98 as "of Enstone," in 1499 we seem to leave war and turmoil behind.

The bitterness left by the strife in which his father was involved at Beresford, perhaps, together with his marriage with Elizabeth Erdeswick of Sandon would naturally link him more closely with Enstone in the neighbourhood of the county town, than with the Moorlands; and this renewed connection, by his marriage, with the chief families of the county might have been expected to lead John to public services even greater than those of his fathers. But we hear nothing more of him than Blore briefly states in the Pedigree. John was his heir and Cecilia his daughter. She married Thomas Broughton of Rugeley, Co. Stafford, Esquire, but this marriage brought trouble after it, as we shall see in the case of Sampson Beresford, mentioned a few pages further on. The name Cecilia or Cicely was that of her great-great-grandmother, the first wife of John de Davenport of Bramhall and a daughter of Sir Lawrence Warren of

Poynton, Knight; and Cecilia thenceforward became a favourite name both with the Davenports and the Beresfords. The two families had long been linked together by their forest duties, a Davenport being Master Forester of Macclesfield Forest, which adjoined Malbanc Forest on the north. A little later, as we shall see, the near neighbourhood of the county town made itself felt by one Beresford becoming the Marshal and another, for at least a year, the Escheator, of Staffordshire. These offices were both of dignity. But the junior members of the family showed a rather too frequent fondness for farming church property. We have already noted Canon Beresford's lease of Alstonfield Rectory and alluded to his dealing in timber. The details of the latter have since appeared in Sir Henry Bemrose's *Charters* (No. 2555), which fine volume also gives from the Derby muniments another transaction of a like nature wherein Denis Beresford, of Gray's Inn, renews a lease of 1527, in which the Dean of Lincoln had leased to Edward Beresford, his father, the rectory of Chesterfield, with all the demesne lands and one fishing in the Derwent for fifty-nine years and the site of Little Chester Manor for sixty-nine years. But the Dean knew how to drive a bargain. He stipulates that the said Denis shall uphold and repair the buildings of the said parsonage and of the said manor at his own costs, the Dean allowing him 26s. 8d. a year and selling him all the trees and wood growing in his wood called Dudmoor for £24 sterling, Denis to leave certain stallings, wevers and kinges, so that the said Dean "may be saved harmlesse against the late Statute" for saving woods and springs (*Charters* No. 1013).

So, too, Canon James and one of his brothers, Laurence, who no doubt acted as man-of-business to the learned canon, had to grant tynsell to repair the hedges of the Abbot of Darley's tenant at Whatstandwell during the twenty years when they were cutting down and carrying away the Abbot's woods. (*Charters*, 2555). But neither Canon James nor Laurence spent the money thus earned upon themselves. The Canon, it is true, provided for his brother Hugh's sons, John and Laurence, by obtaining the lease of Alstonfield Rectory for them, on which both families lived for more than a century; but he also helped to establish S. John's College at Cambridge by founding two senior fellowships and scholarships; he enriched the close at Lichfield with beautiful buildings and the Church at Fenny Bentley with a Bede house and Chantry; and Laurence (of Ley Hall, Tissington) left the first-fruits of his fortune to charitable uses, as is shewn by a Chancery suit which followed his death. (H. S. C., n. s. IX., 91, 92.) The truth is that a new era was dawning, in which the energies of the old families, hitherto spent in fighting out their quarrels, were turned with profit to matters of business; and in this both the Abbeys and Cathedrals encouraged and helped them. Indeed several of the sons of Thomas, the Canon's father, made themselves wealthy men; and it was the enterprise of the family, now becoming conspicuous, which, a few generations later, carried the descendants of Humphry, Thomas's seventh son, into Ireland. But we must return to our story.

The quarrel between Basset and Beresford, who were cousins, died out with the principals engaged in it, or

even sooner. Love the leveller healed the breach. The next and last John Beresford, of the senior line, boldly sought and found a bride at Blore Hall. Did they meet first in romantic Dovedale—which lies between their homes—and timidly talk of dark days gone by? Anyway, the old family pedigree tells us that John the younger about the year 1470 married Margaret, daughter of William Basset of Blore and thus strengthened the link between the Audleys, Staffords and Beresfords which had long existed.

John is described as of Beresford in 1510, on the List D 98, but in 1513 he was mentioned as of Enstone in a Deed (D31) in which William Stepulton late of Hulton, Co. Stafford, son of Richard Stepulton then dead, sold to John Beresford of Enstone, gent., Reginald Dampont [Davenport] chaplain, Wm. Bucknall, John Edwards, and Wm. Spooner, a mediety, one eighth of a messuage, in Eves, near Bucknall, called the Hole House,¹ lately occupied by Thomas Polson, "which part or share my father gave me" . . . the said share to be held by the trustees above named to the use of the said John Beresford. Richard Craddock was his attorney to give seizin, and Thomas Sargeant, George Craddock, Thomas Meonbright, William Johnson, and Thomas Labot etc., were witnesses. Dated at Enstone, 23 Jan. 5 Henry VIII., 1512.

The reason of this investment of land in the hands of trustees perhaps becomes intelligible from a stipulation

¹ Enstone is within a half hour's ride of Stafford, to which town people went for the winter as they now go to London. Hole House would be half way between Beresford and Enstone.

in his Will that Robert his son and heir, should "order himself according to the wish of his guardians." The said heir was apparently a trouble to his father. For similar trustees John buys property at Rugeley.

John's Will is dated November, 1522, and the probate March, 1522; the years then running from March 25 to March 24, and not from January 1 to December 31. The document is interesting as showing mediævalism in full swing just before the Reformation. It seems that Masses for the Dead were not said so much in parish churches—nor were these endowed for that purpose—as in conventual churches. Our copies of this and the Wills of Sampson and Edward Beresford were made from the original Wills in Somerset House by Col. G. W. Beresford, whose reading is here given.

"In the name of God Amen The XXth day of November in the yere of our Lord God MDXXII. I John Berreford of Enston of good memory make this my present testamt. ffirst I betake my soule to the mercie of Almighty God and my body to be buried in the churche of Sandon nere the buriall of Margaret my wyfe and my custume and maner to St. Chedde of Lychfeld and S. Mary house at Coventrie 2s. by even porcons. Also I will that vj. pound of waxe be burnt about my sepulture. I will that the churche of Sandon have a vestment with th apurtinace for a prest to syng masse price xx.s. I will the churche of Salte have a cope price xl.s. Also I will the church of Alstonfeld have x.s. the chapell at Breston vj.s. viij.d. the chapell of St. Luke vj.s. viij.d. and in Wax candells xij.d. the Abbot of Hilton vj.s. viij.d. And evey of the Convent xij.d. and to have masse and dirige the grey ffreres of Staff. x.s. and there to have a Trentall the Austen ffreres of the same iij.s. iij.d. xx. pour maides xx.th nobles to there mariage of the wch I have named viij. and the other xii. by the discrecons of myn executours my cosyn margarett Suleweire xx.s. my neve Symon Berreford v. marks sterlinge my nevwe Thomas Berreforde v.li. sterling Emmet my cosyn mother to Robt. Emmot vi.s. viij.d. Also every of my servants that is to saie jj. maidens either a haiffer James a best of the last yere and one of this yere Rob one of this yere. John Hole a beste of the last yere the millar if he abide his yere a Beest of ye last yere the neryste if she abide hir yere a haiffer and every weke iij.d. Also I will have a Preest at Berreford iij. yeres my sonne Robt to fynd hym his borde and myn executur to paye his wage Also I will that every prest have at my buriall iij.d. every clerke with surples ij.d. every man woman and chylde at my buriall a peny.

Also I will that Robt myne eldest sonne have my lande both that came to me by inheritance and my purchased lande and his heire for ever Also I will that he contynue and inhabite at Berreford hall and upon the goode domeans of the saide Robert and Mary his wife and that they be ordered and counceled by the good advice of myn executours. I will that he have all my ffermeys (fermes) and tithes refermed upon the good domaine of Richard my sonne and that by the advice of myn executours that if hee can be maried that he shall have as I have instructed my saide executours in pte of the farmys. Also I will that my said sonne Robert have to the setting up of hys householde at Berreford vi. oxen x. Kyne a bull c. wethers and ewyes ij. horses iij. mares viij. of the grete silver spoons with appostells and stuffe of householde by the discrecon of my sayde executours deliured to him by Bill ended. Provided alwey that if the sayde Robt my sonne doe goe and dwell at Berreford hall and there to inhabit that then it shall be lawful for the said Robt to enjoy and to have all things as is aforesayde or els to have no more by my gyfte at no tymes than the law will give as my land and his heire Lomis [heirlooms] Also I will that Richard my sonne have xl. marks of my goods and that he in likewise be ordered and counselled by th advice of my said ex'ours and that he and the sd goods be put to my sonne in law Nicholas Riggley Provided that there be sufficient suretie founde for the goodes and that he so contynue till such tyme as myn executorus can ethr by marrieg or otherwise pvide best for the same. Also I will that George son to my daughter Cecil the wch George I have bought the ward and marriahe I will that he be put to the schoole and to have all things necessarie and the reversions of his land to be saved to the pfit and use of the said George by the discrecon of my said executours. And I make Nicholas Riggley Wilm Alessop and Robert Bateman my true and lawful executours and that they doo pform this my last will And I make Sir John Aston, Knight that hath ben ewer myn especiall good Mr. myne overseer and to se these things aforesaid pformed I will he have c.s. ster to buy him a horse I will my sonne Rigley have fyve mks and my son Glossop v. marks Writen the daie an yere aforesaid. These Witnesse Sir Reginald Dampont John Benet of Berreford and Janates Tall with manie others

Probatum fuit Cath d'ni Pauli London xix. die menz marcii
Anno Dni millimo quingentesimo vicesimo secundo."

A few explanatory remarks may be useful here.

An idea of the value of money may be gathered from the fact that the squire leaves his knight, Sir John Aston, of Tixall, one hundred shillings to buy him a horse. A shilling then purchased as much as half a sovereign now.

The Trentall was a series of masses for thirty days, or one on the thirtieth day after the testator's death. The Austin friars stood on the Green, at Stafford; the

Grey friars was in Foregate. Hilton Abbey was a poor Cistercian house between Leek and Stoke-on-Trent. The testator bought part of "The Hole House," at Bucknall, in the 5th year of Henry VIII., 1513, and probably made it a half-way house between Beresford and Enstone, when migrating from summer to winter quarters, that is from Beresford in the Moorlands to Enstone. Before that purchase he had probably sought a night's lodging at Hilton Abbey, hard by, when thus travelling.

Breston, or Burston, lay between Enstone and Stone, where it is evident that the ancient chapel, connected by legend with S. Chad, was still being used. It is now destroyed. A priest could not have sung at Beresford three years without a chapel.

In the Inquisition taken after John Beresford's death we have a catalogue of the items of his property. He died Jan. 26, 14 Henry VIII., 1523, in a good old age; for Robert, his son and heir, was then a man of forty. In Warslow he held a messuage and tenement of John Mundy in Soke. In Alstonfield two messuages and eighty acres of land, and from John Blunt and his wife, relatives and heirs of Humphrey Pershall, nineteen pence in rent in Soke. In Enstone, a messuage and 220 acres of land of the Abbey of Combermere. In Onecote a messuage of the Abbey of Hulton and twenty-two pence rent not in Soke. In Eves, a messuage called Hole House of Humphrey Boothby in Soke, the rent being three shillings and one penny. And in Rugeley, Alstonfield, Gurson, Sandon, Salt, and Narrowdale, divers tenements and holdings.

The son Richard mentioned in the Will supplies a

long lost link. He would be Richard Beresford, who in 1562 died at Gateham Grange, leaving his body to be buried in Alstonfield chancel and for a mortuary his best horse. His daughters were Joan and Elyn. Joan married Matthew Beresford, and the two lived long at Gateham Grange. Elyn married Anthony Beresford, of the Parwich branch, which is still represented by Mr. Samuel Ball Beresford, one of the authors of this little history, and others.

The care of John Beresford—the last of the original Johns at Beresford—for religion, as it was then known, shews that the impending Reformation was no light matter to the family. But they acquiesced in it—only one member, and he of the Bentley branch, falling away after it to the new Roman Catholic sect, which sprang up in the time of Queen Elizabeth. The stately pomp of John's funeral is indicated by his Will. A priest was to sing three years at Beresford; where, as we have already seen, there must have been a chapel. The chaplain of the family now appears to have been a cousin, and of the Davenport family.²

Robert Beresford married Mary, daughter of John Barbour of Flashbrook, Co. Stafford, gent. He seems to have increased rather than to have wasted his property. He purchased Ash-holme from Richard Beresford and John his son in 1533 (D98) and the Inquisition at his death, 19 August, 1542, shows that Sampson, his heir, was then twenty-two years of age. The latter would therefore be born a short time before his grandfather's

² Reginalde Davenport, third son of William and Margery Davenport of Bromhall. (*Ormerod's Cheshire*, III., 827. *Earwaker's Cheshire*, Vol. I. 436.)

death; and, unless we are mistaken, Robert's marriage was the matter which seemed to prove his imprudence in his father's eyes. Yet the Barbours of Flashbrook were of good standing, and in the reign of Elizabeth bore arms: *Gules: three mullets Argent, border ermine, a dexter canton or.* A younger branch was then the owner of Hopwas Bridge. The head of the senior branch married the heiress of the Jordans of Flashbrook. But the fact that he had been barber to the Duke of Buckingham, and proudly called himself after his profession, may have been somewhat offensive to the Beresfords.

John's objection to the Barber's pedigree is a little difficult to understand³ when viewed in connection with his chivalrous devotion to the good knight, Sir John Aston, to whom he was esquire.⁴ The founder of the Astons, great as they became, was Dapifer to an early Bishop of Lichfield. But John Beresford's character was that of a Tudor gentleman. Pride and piety struggled together in it. And no doubt the marriage of his daughter Cecil—which name has been hitherto forgotten—with Noel of Hilcote, would gratify him as much as that of his son to the descendant of "one Brown, who was barber to Henry, Duke of Buckingham," as his cousin Erdeswick puts it,⁵ displeased him. The Noels were one of the oldest families of the county, and to them the oldest extant Beresford Deed, that of King John's time, refers as already noted.

3 Barbers were Surgeons, and Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, one of the greatest men in England.

4 Sir John Aston, of Tixall, died 1523. His sister married Basset of Blore. (*Visitation, 1583*, H. S. C., II., 38.)

5 *Erdeswick's Survey of Stafford*, 105.

The Mundys, now of Markeaton, near Derby, were then rising into eminence in Derbyshire. Their ancestor had been Lord Mayor of London in the early Tudor times and they purchased the Alstonfield estates of the fallen Lords Audley, and the rights of the co-parcenors in the manor. Vincent Mundy was slain by his son. A scrap of glass in Alstonfield church preserves the name there; but their connection with Alstonfield has till now been quite forgotten. Judge Harpur bought them out in 11 Elizabeth for £360.⁶

Bassano noted that Robert held the manor of Beresford under Vincent Mundy, Esquire, as of the manor of Alstonfield⁷ at a rent of twelve pence. In Warslow he held three messuages, one hundred and ten acres of land and a rent from them of three shillings and sixpence. In Alstonfield he had two messuages, one hundred acres and nineteen pence rent; certain leys in the same (yielding) a rose at the Feast of S. John Baptist. In Enstone he had a messuage and one hundred and twenty acres from James Collier, to whom this property of Combermere had been granted at the Dissolution of the Abbey in 1538, holding it as of the manor of Yarlet at a rent of twopence. In Onecote he had a messuage and five acres of land in fee farm under Hulton Abbey. In Rugeley, one meadow of the Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield in Soke. In Burston, five acres of land of Humphrey Stanley as of the manor of Aston in Soke. In Sandon, six acres of Sampson Erdeswick for a rose rent. In Salt, one acre of Trussell's heirs, Humphrey Bingley, gent., and three shillings and one penny in fee.

⁶ Final Concords. H. S. C., XIII., 276.

⁷ Bassano's MSS., Vol. II., William Salt Library. In. P.M.

The next heir, Sampson's, name savours of the connection with the Erdeswicks, his great-grandmother's family, and of life at Enstone. But our Sampson was born in 1520, and Sampson Erdeswick, the historian of the county, was not entered as a gentleman commoner at Brazenose College until 1553-4. Both were named after their Sampson Erdeswick ancestors, and both inherited the blood of the Staffords, De Verduns, Bassets, Harcourts, Audleys, etc., etc., as is somewhat pompously claimed for the Erdeswicks on the historian's curious monument in Sandon Church. Possibly the choice of the name Sampson for their heir by Robert and Mary Beresford may have been an attempt to balance the honest blood of the ducal barber with the nobler Erdeswick strain.

Sampson Beresford married Ann, daughter of John Morgan of South Maplerton in Dorset, and lived to be seventy-three years of age, dying in 1593. His will was proved the same year in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. He was blessed with five sons and five daughters. Of these, Edward Beresford was the last esquire of the elder line who lived at Beresford. Robert, the second son, was settled at Enstone in the family seat there. Of the daughters, Mary, Margaret, and Catherine married neighbouring squires. (See Pedigree.) The fourth daughter was drowned in the Trent, presumably where it runs narrow and deep, on the low land between Enstone and Sandon; and the fifth daughter married Bishop Overall, sometime the eminent Bishop of the Diocese, who was translated from Lichfield to Norwich. A later connection between Beresford and equally conspicuous learning happened nearly a century

afterwards when a daughter of Charles Cotton, and great-great-grandaughter of Edward Beresford, married Dean Stanhope, the famous preacher.

The Chancery Proceedings of Queen Elizabeth's time (H. S. C., Vol. IX., new series) throw much light on Sampson's life. No. 58 tells us that he was lawfully seized of a pasture called Bull Heys in Bucknall, and that there he put divers horses, mares, colts, and geldings at Pentecost, 1565. In August one of his mares, well worth ten pounds, broke forth from the said pasture and in 'strakyng' towards Sampson's pastures at Enston, where she had been reared, got into the fields of John Bolton who killed her. The accused replied that he found her dead in the highway and that she was not worth more than five marks. And No. 70 is the record of a contest for a farm at Overelsyde, on the moors between Warslow and Leek. This, says Sampson, was part of the manor of Warslow, and had fifty years before been obtained as copyhold by William Basford or Beresford and Joan his wife, who had given it over to Robert Beresford, Sampson's father, who held it till his death then 27 years ago. In 1565 also, Sampson was summoned by George Broughton, alias Smythe, of Brereton, gent., to defend his title to ten messuages, six cottages, a mill, three hundred acres of arable land, fifty acres of meadow, three hundred acres of pasture, and forty acres of marsh at Rugeley, Armitage, etc. These, he said, had been bought by his grandfather, and held in trust for Cecily, wife of Thomas Broughton, George's father, and that much of the present trouble was due to George's having no issue and desiring to waste the

property. But he, Sampson, was the rightful owner and would keep it till the contrary was proved.

Sampson Beresford was Marshal of the County of Stafford. His Will will be interesting. It is as follows :

"In the Name of God Amen. The 8 Feb. 1593, and 33 Q. Elizabeth. I Sampson Beresford of Enston in the Countie of Stafforde, Esquier beinge in indifferent goode healthe of bodye and also of very goode and perfecte remembrance thanks be given to God therefore And waying that according to the generall decree appointed to all mankinde that every one must once dye and therefore deathe certain and to be expected for all And for that the time thereof is most uncertein and unknowne to every one for whiche causes haveing also a carefull consideracon for the bestowing of all my goods chattells cattells & Household stuffe plate and suche other things as it hath pleased Almightye God to send me in this worlde farre above my deserts and for avoyding of suche strife as otherwise mighte happely fall amonges my children for or aboute the same after my deathe if I should not sett downe order in that behalfe in my Lyfe time Doe for the consideracons above menconed ordayne and make this my testament conteyning therein my last will in manner and forme followinge that is to saye ffirst and before all things I yeaelde upp and bequeathe my Sowle to Almightye God my Maker and Redeemer. And next my bodye to the earthe to be buryed in suche parte of Christian buriall as to my Ex'ors shall seem expedient and meete. Item. I give and bequeathe to Edward Beresford my eldest son all my Armor to his owne use. And in like manner I give to the same Ed. warde all my plate, all my silver spoones oneley excepted. Item. All such debts as I shall fortune to owe to any person or persons at the time of my decease and for whiche I shall not take other sufficient order in my Lyfe time being duely payde owte of my wholle goods and chattells remayninge not hereby bequeathed and also my funerall expenses being discharged owte of the saide wholle rest and remnent I will then that my goods and chattells and silver spoons remayning after the sayde debts payde and funerall expenses discharged as aforesaid shall be delivered by my Ex'ors to my foure younger sonnes that is to saye Robert, Walter, John and George, and to my grandchilde Jane Dixwell beinge an orphan. And my meaninge and will is that the same last menconed remayning goods shall first before they be delivered as aforesaid be by the discrecon of twoe at the Least of my neere kinsfolkes and by my said Ex'ors divided into five equall partes. And then every one of my saide foure younger sonnes and the saide Jane Dixwell to have each of them one of the saide equall partes of the same goodes in their nature and kindes and not to have the same goodes 'praised and my Ex'ors to pay them in money.

Item. I doe give and bequeathe to my daughter Catherine Lea to whome I heretofore gave the some of twenty poundes which I payde to the handes of Sir Walter Aston, Knte, deceased, to and for the use of her husband, George Lea, and herselfe 40s. viz. : 20s. to her owne use and 20s. to be equallie distributed amonges her children. And to my daur. Margaret Burne whome I have already preferred in mar-

riage, one of my saide silver spoones as oneley a Remembrance of fatherly good Will towards her.

Item. I give to John Burne sonne of the saide Margaret 10s. And to Walter Beresford sonne to my saide sonne Robert Beresford other 10s. I give and bequeathe to my cosen John Barbor one grey filly whiche nowe is twoe yeares olde and upwards. And I doe ordaine my saide twoe sonnes Edward Beresford and John Beresford my Ex'ors of this my Will.

In Witness hereof hereunto I have putt my seale the saide 8 Feb. 33 yeare abovesaide Revoking hereby all former wills by me made

Witnesses hereunto: John Barbour, "Byrne" Edward Beresford, Walter Beresford, John Beresford, George Beresford, James Phillippes and Robert Hancocke.

Probatum fuit London 2 July 1593 by Edward Beresford and John Beresforde.

His seal, on an original Deed belonging to Mr. J. H. White, bears a Bear, chained and collared, etc. But on one of his deeds preserved amongst the Beresford papers he seals with a bear's paw as a crest; and the visiting herald of 1583 gives his arms as argent *three* bears rampant *sable*, muzzled, *or*. But it seems clear that the old three bears were then being abandoned for a single bear. Yet Laurence Beresford, great grandson of Hugh, brother of the Canon, erecting a monument to his father and Hugh in Bentley Church as late as 1607, kept the three bears with a mullet for difference.

Edward Beresford was escheator to the County of Stafford, 44 Eliz. He buried his first wife, Olyve, in Alstonfield chancel, December 17, 1583, and married Dorothy, fifth daughter and co-heiress of Aden, head of the Bentley Beresfords; and when that family died out strangely in the reign of James I., he shared their large possessions with the sisters of his wife and with the Beresfords of Newton Grange. He is shown by an original Deed, executed by Sampson Beresford of Enstone and Edward Beresford of Beresford, to have lived at Beresford during his father's life. He seems to have re-

moved on succeeding to his wife's patrimony to the old hall at Fenny Bentley, a much warmer place than Beresford. Here he kept house, and here his only daughter and heiress, Olive, who was baptized at Alstonfield, December 29, 1592, was married to Sir John Stanhope of Elvaston, Knight, the ancestor, by a second wife, of the Earls of Chesterfield and Harrington, 29 September, 1608, S. Michael's Day, at Bentley, when the bride was but fifteen. The sermon was preached by Robert Abbott, D.D., elder brother of Abbott, Archbishop of Canterbury, and was printed in London by Roger Jackson dwelling in Fleet Street, 1608. It is dedicated to "the right worshipfull Sir John Stanhope, Knight, the Father of the Bridegroom, my most loving and good patron." The text is Amos iii., 3. "Can two walke together except they bee agreed?" and it sets forth "I. The Spirituall conjunction betwixt God and Man," and "II. The Corporall marriage betwixt man and woman." Dr. Abbott had been presented to the rich living of Bingham, Co. Notts., about 1588. He was Master of Balliol, 1609, Regius Professor of Divinity, Oxon, 1612, Bishop of Salisbury, 1615, and died in 1617.

The mode of celebrating this wedding may be compared with that of the funeral of 1523, both in the same Church, that of England, and family. But the pomp of the pre-reformation service has now given way to the preaching of the advancing Puritan age.

Beresford Hall was now practically deserted by the Beresfords, and the property, including the two foresterships of Malbanc Frith Forest, was made over to

Trustees for the use of Lady Stanhope and her heirs. (H. S. C., n. s. IV., p. 8)⁸ This, the last mention of the foresterships, closes a long stretch of history. And perhaps there was a reason for Edward's finally quitting Beresford hall for Bentley. For about the year 1590, the lay rectors had pulled down the old chancel at Alstonfield and its aisles, and had no doubt so destroyed and scattered its monuments as to create a family feud.

Olive, Lady Stanhope, and her mother, Dorothy Beresford, both died in 1613 and were buried at Fenny Bentley, and Edward followed her to rest there, June 6, 1621.

The Will of Edward Beresford, the last of his line who was lord of Beresford, is dated 3 June, 1620, and was proved November 27 of the next year. He says:—

"I Edward Beresford of fenny Bentley in the Countie of Derby Esquire being sicke in body will my bodie to be buried in the chancell of Fenny Bentlie betweene my daughter's grave and the wall.

Item. I give to Richard Beresford sonne of Robert Beresford gent. my brother deceased the yearlie Rent of thirteene shillings and fourpence. . . . yssueing out of one messuage or Tenement at Creleyside in the parish of Bucknall and nowe or late in the tenure of John Murhall or William Murhall theire or one of theire assignes and the reversion of the same Tenement or messuage with all and singular lands tenements and appurtenances whatsoever together also with one peece of meadow lying in Oldington neere Ridgeley in the Countie of Stafford now in the tenure of Widowe Hareley To have and to hold the saide Rent Residence and Meadow groundes unto the said Richard Beresford and his assignes from the day of my decease for and during all the end and terme of fflower score yeares from thence next and ymmediatly following fully to be compleat and ended yf the sd Richard shall soe longe live.

8 39 Elizabeth. Edward Beresford is complainant and Ralph Vernon and Margery his wife are deforciantes of 12 messuages, 4 cottages, 5 tofts, 16 gardens, 100 acres of lands, 50 acres of meadow, 200 acres of pasture, 6 acres of wood, 200 acres furze and heath, in Waterfall. and wins his case. The Vernons claimed through the Newton Grange Beresfords. Their claim was renewed in 40 Elizabeth, and again settled by Edward paying £400. (Final Concords, H. S. C., Vol. XVI., 162, 178.) See below in Part II. the fight at Waterfall between Smith and Lord.



Alstonfield ch:

E.H.N.

THE BERESFORD PEW IS SEEN THROUGH THE MIDDLE ARCH.

(John Beresford, whose name as a Churchwarden, responsible for the carving, is on the pew near the pulpit, was almost the last gentlemen of the name who lived in the village. He was the son of Lawrence whose initials and 1590 are on the Chancel, and grandson of John coffered 1584, which last John seems to have been the brother of the founder of the Irish branch; not as on page 67, the son of Hugh but of his brother Humphry.)

Item. I give and bequeathe to Robert Ferinhoughe sometime servant £10. To Thomas Frost my servant the yearlie rent of fower markes of lawfull Englishe money to be yearlie yessuing and paide out of all that messuage or Tenement with appurtenances in Waterfall in the Countie of Stafford now in the tenure of Thomas Smyth or his assigns and out of all lands, meadows, leases, pastures and grounds thereunto belonging used, and occupied, or in anywise appertayning for four score yeares. To Ann Lant for her paines taken with my grandchild, trusting shee will be as carefull of her bringing upp duering her service as formerly shee hath, the some of £20. Item. I give and bequeathe to John Bullock my servant £5 and to Mary Bullock his wif one cow or heiffer being either in calfe or with a calve at her foote. Item. To my nephew John Dixwell £3. To Thomas and William Wall my servants £5 to be equallie divided betwixt them. Item. To every man and woman servant that shall serve me at my decease and having then served me twoe yeares faithfully and truly and not having any other legacie hereby given them tenne shillings apeece. Item. I give to Anthony Mellor the yearly rent of 13/- foure pence to be yerrely yssuing and paid out of all that messuage or tenement in Waterfall aforesaide in the occupation of William Ford or his assignes and out of all the landes pastures and groundes thereunto belonging for a terme of fortie yeares. Item. I give to James Thacker my servant £3. Item, to my godson Edward Plant 10/-, To my god daughter Mrs. Mary Milward 40/- To my sheappde Shawe 10/- To John Cravene 5s. To olde good wiffe Briddon 5s. To Sir John Stanhope, Knight, my loving sonne in lawe my best horse. To my faithfull and loving Kinsmann John Millward, Esq. £5. To Ollive Stanhope my grand childe and heir all and singuler my Landes, tenements, goodes, Debtes, chattells, duties and demands not hereby bequeathed and given—to have and to hold the same unto the saide Olive Stanhope her heires and assignes for ever. I nominate the saide Sir John Stanhope and John Millward to be my trusty and faithful executors of this my Last Will . . . not doubting but that they will see the same performed and kept, unto whose discrecons I refer the disposition of all blacke and other necessities Signed in presence of Robert Butler, William Scoke, John Bullocke, sd Edward Beresford."

The headship of the Family now devolved upon the Enstone branch, and after them upon that settled at Newton Grange.


"Richard Bearisford" of Enstone, gent., the brother of Edward, died in 1640, and by his Will directed his body to be buried in Sandon Church. He left to his loving wife, Timison, £20, to Isabel, Olive and Margaret, his daughters, and to Richard, his son, £10 each, with remainder to his wife and children. The value of his estate was £199 15s. od., and the farm at Salt seems

to have belonged to him. Of his children, Richard and Olive both died childless. Margaret married — Wheywell, and Isabel is thus commemorated in Sandon Church: "Isabell ye daughter of Richard BerisFord of Enstone, Gent., and Thomasin his wife who had two husbands, John Selvester, yeomⁿ and Robert Palmer, Gent. She Departed this Life y^e 19th of March, 1695. She was the last branch of that worthy Ancient ffamily. She was 71." Robert Palmer died in 1711.

The old lady was mistaken, however. The "Ancient ffamily" certainly did not become extinct in 1695. Captain John was then its head. He had left Newton Grange as a residence, but had bought back Beresford Hall. At Brownhills, now Warslow Hall, a branch had long been seated and was presently to merge by the marriage of its heiress, Dorothea, only daughter of Samuel and Ann Beresford, baptized 1705, with young William Gould of Pilsbury and Hanson. Gateham Grange was the old home of a dignified line which was then about migrating to London. The Birchover and Parwich Beresfords still flourished; and before the end of the eighteenth century, their distant cousin, the enterprising Charles Roe of Macclesfield, became the means of establishing a scion of the Beresfords at Bosley Works, in Cheshire. True that the Alstonfield rectorial leases had run out, but the descendants of John and Laurence were not extinct. And in 1705, William Beresford, who left the old estates at Waterfall when the Cottons were breaking up and had bought lands at Ipstones Park, died at the age of 116. And in Ireland another branch was rising into high eminence.

CHAPTER IX.

Charles Cotton, the Elder.

IR John Stanhope, the younger, was knighted by James I. at Whitehall, June 4, 1607, the year before his marriage with Olive Beresford. He was Knight of the Shire for Derbyshire, 18 James I., and also in the first Parliament of Charles I. and for Leicester two years later. His only child by this first marriage was Olive; and in 1614 he lost his wife. Blore notes that she died January 29, 161 $\frac{3}{4}$, and was buried February 29. This, however, could scarcely be. Sir John married a second time. In 1629, he was Sheriff of Derbyshire, and after his death in 1638 a monument costing £600 was erected by his widow. It is recorded that so greatly did Sir John Gell of Hopton dislike him that in the confusions of the year 1642, Gell damaged his monument, dug up his flowers and—married his widow.

This animosity was not merely political. When John Gell was yet one of the most zealous collectors of ship-money in Derbyshire he made the most rigorous exactions from Sir John Stanhope. There must have been an element of romance in the matter which perhaps his marriage of the widowed Lady Mary Stanhope explains. Both Sir Johns were connected by marriage with the Beresfords—Sir John Stanhope, as we know; and the redoubtable Roundhead General through his grandfather, who had married a daughter of the Newton

Grange family as a second wife, and through Ralph Gell, of Carsington, who in 1574 married Dorothy Beresford, daughter of John and Joan Beresford, of Alstonfield.

Sir John Stanhope lived in great harmony with the Beresfords, and several deeds in the Beresford documents relate to him. In the year 1614 we find him giving a bond to defend John Beresford of Newton Grange against any action which William Atkinson of the Inner Temple might bring against the said John as executor of Thomas Beresford lately deceased. Here we touch a chapter of our family history of great interest and importance; but, though it shews how Edward Beresford obtained his foothold at Fenny Bentley, we must defer its full narration till we have to detail the events connected with the strange extinction of the Fenny Bentley branch of the house of Beresford.

The only daughter of Sir John and the Lady Olive Stanhope was her mother's heiress. She was wooed and won by Charles Cotton, a middle-aged gentleman of fashion; but the match displeased Sir John; and Cotton had thus to defend himself:—

“THE SEVERAL ANSWEARE OF CHARLES COTTON, ESQUIRE,
TO THE BILL OF COMPLAYNT OF SIR JOHN STANHOPE, KNIGHT,
COMPLAYNAUNT.

“This defendant is desirous with an humble submission, to pacifye the Complaynaunt's displeasure, and to stirre up his fatherly affection by all possible respects of obedience, and not to justifie or excuse his actions, in hope that the complaynaunt would be pleased to accept of his submission and to remit what is past upon triall to be made of this defendant's dutifull and respectfull demeanor towards him in tyme to come which the Defendant doth by himselfe and his Wyfe, (the Complaynaunt's childe) in acknowledginge his error and declaring that he is heartilie penitent for the same, and alsoe by the entreaty of many Honourable Friends this Defendaunt hath endeavoured to attaine and in obedience to the processe of this most Honourable Courte (saving to himself all advantage of exception to the insufficiency of the saide Bill) for Answere to the same sayeth that he hopeth to make it appear to this Honourable

Courte and to the Complaynaunt that he is not of soe poore meanes and estate as the Complaynaunt hath binne informed. For this Defendaunt sayeth that he is the sonne and heire of Sir George Cotton, late of Bedhampton, in the Countye of Southampton, Knight, and of Cassandra, his wyfe, whoe was one of the daughters and co-heires of Henry Mack-Williams, of Stanburn Hall, in the Countye of Essex, Esquire, sometyme one of the honourable band of pensioners to the late Queene of ffamous memory, Queene Elizabeth. So that this Defendaunt hopeth that neither this honourable Courte nor the Complaynaunt will conceive that any disparagement canne redound to the Complaynaunt or his Daughter by marriage with this Defendaunt. And further sayeth that hee had an estate in Landes of Inheritance and Rents left unto him of the yearly value of one thousand markes or thereabouts. And if the same be not equivalent or proportionable to the Complaynaunt's Daughter's estate, this Defendaunt doubteth not but to supply any wants thereof by his affectionate love to his wyffe and respectfull observation of suche a ffather. And this Defendaunt further sayeth that he did not know that the said Olive was under the age of sixteene yeares, but was credibly informed she was of the age of sixteene yeares, nor knowe what inheritance was descendable upon the Complaynaunt's Daughter (now this Defendaunt's Wyfe) at the tyme that hee sought to obtayne her for his wyfe; his affections being more fixed upon her person and the Alliance of soe noble a ffamilie than upon her estate; neither did he knowe that she was to have the landes in the bill mentioned, or what other landes she was to have either by dissent or conveyance. But this Defendaunt sayeth that it is true that understandinge of the virtuous disposition of the Complaynant's Daughter, and receaving satisfaction of the good report hee had heard by the sight of her person, hee did by all possible meanes address himselfe to intimate unto her his desires, and having the opportunity to meet with her att the house of one of her Aunts, hee, this Defendaunt did in short tyme discover her affection towards this Defendaunt and thereupon hee was emboldened to proceede to move her in the way of marriage. And there were some Messages interchanged betweyn them, whereby she signified her readiness to answer this Defendaunt's desires therein and the difficulty to obtaine her but by carrying of her away. And did herselfe appointe to come to this Defendaunt if hee could come for her; whereupon he prepared a coache and in the evening of the Daye in the bill mentioned hee came in a coache neere unto Salisburye Courte, where the Complaynaunt dwelleth. And this Defendaunt's now wyfe came of her own accorde to this Defendaunt and the same night he confesseth that they were married together and ever since cohabited together as Husband and Wyfe, in doing whereof if this Defendaunt's passion and fervancy of affection have transported him beyond the bounds of wisdom, dutye and good discretion, this Defendant doth most humbly crave the pardon and favourable construction of this most honourable Courte and of the Complaynaunt concerning the same. But as concerninge any Riot or Riotouse assembly this Defendaunt sayeth that he attended his Wyfe comming unto him beinge accompanied onely with his ordinary attendance other than one gent. that was in his company and the minister wh married them (being the Defendaunt's Kinsman) neither were they armed with any Pistolls, or otherwise than at other tymes they usually walked. And concerning the obtaining and suinge out of the Licence in the bill mentioned or procuring Nicholas Butler and Richard Edmonds in the bill named or either of them or anye other to make the oath in the bill mentioned, this Defendant sayeth that hee never knew that any

oathe was made but by Reporte and that long after the same was done, nor ever saw the faces of the said Butler nor Edmonds to his knowledge, nor knoweth what they weare or who produced them, nor ever made anie use of the said License. And to all and everie one the subornacions of perjurye, unlawfull practises, or Conspiracyes, Riotts or riotous Assemblies or any other offence in and bye the said Bill or complaynt layde to the charge of this Defendaunt (except onely the marryinge of the sayde Complayn-aunt's daughter) in such sorte as formerly is expressed—Hereby this Defendaunt sayeth that hee is not of them or anie of them guiltye in suche as in and bye the saide Bill is declared. And humbly prayeth by the ffavour of this Honble Courte to be dismissed from any further attendance herein.”—*Old Family MSS.*

“Charles Cotton,” says Clarendon in his own *Life*, “for many years continued the greatest ornament of the town. His natural parts were very great, his wit flowing in all parts of conversation. . . . He had all those qualities which in youth raise men to the reputation of being fine gentlemen; such a pleasantness and gaiety of humour, such a sweetness and gentleness of nature and a civility and delightfulness in conversation, that no man, in the Court or out of it, appeared a more accomplished person: all these extraordinary qualifications being supported by as extraordinary a clearance of courage, and fearlessness of spirit of which he gave too often manifestation. Some unhappy suits in law and waste of his fortune in those suits made some impression on his mind. . . . Those indulgences to himself, which naturally attend afflictions, rendered his age less revered than his youth had been, and gave his best friends cause to wish that he had not lived so long.”

Olive, wife of Charles Cotton the elder, has left a letter^t behind her which will perhaps show whence her famous son, Charles Cotton the younger, drew some of his kindly sprightliness. The letter runs thus:—

^t Now in the possession of Mr. R. Seddon, of Alstonfield, whose father found it in Beresford Hall when tenant there.

"HONEST WILL. I wonder I heard not from you the last week upon the accompt of my rents. Pray get soe much money and brew the halfe hogshead of stronge beare and set it in the little house and one hogshead of small which will hold 4 strickes of mault 2 for the Strong and 2 for the Small and I desire your wife to do mee the favoure as to brew it herselfe; remember to doe it speedyle before hott weather comes for I shall bee verie speedily in the cuntrie. Send me Jack's height that I may buy his coats fitt and the height of my own Chamber that I may fitt my bed. Desire your wife to looke in the trunk where my worke lies and send me one that is fully finished, and one that is not, of the Quishions in Irish worke; and the broad piece of quishion canvis 2 yards broad that is unwrought; let me know how my gardens prosper; and tell John gardiner that if I do not find my gardens in ample maner when I come, that he and I shall not bee friends. Bid him send word if hee would have anything sent down for them. Mr. Upton² remembers him to you and your wife and desires to know whether his Mare has been brought in bed or noe; and I desire to know how my black dam-sell doth. Pray get your own horses in good case in case I send for you or you are to meet mee; remember mee to all my friends but especially to Hayes, John Basset,³ Dic Ball and tell him I will bring his Cognizance with mee. Let us get the blew coate where wee can. Desire your nephew to looke in my trunk of bookes and there you shall finde a large booke in writing with a parchment cover blotched on one side with inke towards the nooke of it; it's of preserving and con-servng and send it upp by this bearer; by whom I think I shall send you further news of my coming downe; if Mr. Parker be not the cause; but however do what I have desir'd. Send me word what's become of that gracious elfe Pue. Soe I rest, my blessing to the two, and

Your loving Mrs
OLIVE COTTON.

Comrades that keep
the rabbits Jack and bill burd.
Maye the 10th 1650."

The "rhyme and rattle" of the letter characterize the mother of the poet.

We come now to notice practical traces of the pecuniary troubles which began to undo the family and to disperse the old estates of the Beresfords. The Will of Edmund Beresford of Cannock, gent., in 1644, says that he bought an annuity of £20 a year from

² "1665. Buried W. Upton, serving man at Barsett Hall."—*Alstonfield Register*.

³ The miller at Beresford. The mill was in the Dale just below Pike Pool. The sound of the wheel would often be heard at the Hall. John the miller was buried September 4, 1667. His son Robert said he was ninety-five years old.

his worthy cousin, Charles Cotton, for the latter's life. In 4 Charles I. Charles Cotton of Notts. and Olive demised lands to W. Grindon for ninety-nine years from the demise of Sir John Stanhope. In 1651 they sold a farm at Warslow to John Waine of Warslow, yeoman, for £200. In 1658 Charles Cotton levied a fine to George Parker of Weston Coyney and Thomas Jolly of Lockwood, Co. Staff., on a moiety of the manor of Overingdean (Ovingdean) Co. Sussex; twelve messuages, one hundred acres pasture, twenty acres meadow, twenty acres furze and heath in Waterfall, Co. Staff.; Watercorn Mill at Beresford; twenty-two messuages, four hundred acres of land, fifty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and five hundred acres of furze and heath in Alstonfield, Beresford, Warslow, Hayesyate, Ashholme, Ferniford, Grindon, Oncotte, Enson, Rugeley, Stoke-on-Trent, and Bucknall; three messuages, one hundred acres of land, twenty acres of meadow, one hundred acres of pasture, and two hundred acres of furze and heath in Hartington, Heathcote, Biggin, and Wolfscote, Co. Derby; and all those closes in Fenny Bentley called the Carr, the Swallow Well, the Little Field, Carr Meadow, Bentley Field and Mill Close, and all other messuages and lands in Fenny Bentley save such as were in jointure to Lady Mary Gell, late the wife of Sir John Stanhope, Knight, deceased, to raise £1,000 for the debts of Olive, wife of Charles Cotton, and £3,000 to pay his debts. The money was raised. That year he died.

Cotton died in 1658, his only child, Charles, having been born at Beresford, April 28, 1630. The story of

the latter's life is a mingled tale of brilliance and gloom. His genius burned brightly, but debt pressed heavily.

November 22, 1659. Mrs. Ellen Waklein, waiting gentlewoman to Mrs. Charles Cotton of Beresford, was buried at Alstonfield.

Charles Cotton, the Younger.



PEACE and Good Neighbourhood might have been the motto of Beresford Hall in olden times, but in the days of Charles Cotton, the younger, there came some exception to the rule.

Descended from Sir Richard Cotton,⁴ Comptroller of the Household and Privy Councillor to Edward VI., and connected with the families of Stanhope, Wotton, Aston, Cokaine, Port, and Russell, his father was a friend of rare Ben Jonson, Selden, Donne, and other men of genius, including the great Lord Clarendon, but he owed most of all under Providence to his mother, Olive Stanhope. She was a woman of rare beauty, gentleness, and intellect. Sir Aston Cokayne wrote of her :

“She was too good to live and young to die.”

The letter before quoted shews the kindly human feeling and delight with which she looked forward to coming down to Beresford in May, 1650. But the coming was alas to die. Born before 1614, she must in 1650, have been near her thirty-eighth and last year. She was buried at Fenny Bentley, but a break in the

⁴ Of whom much may be read in Strype's Annals.

We are much indebted to Sir Harris Nicolas's admirable *Life of Walton and Cotton*, for the main facts of Cotton's life.

Register from 1642 to 1660 deprives us of the exact date.

Her son Charles was then twenty years of age. He was educated partly under Mr. Ralph Rawson, of Brazenose College, Oxford, and partly at Cambridge. To Mr. Rawson, "his dear tutor," he dedicated later a translation of an ode by Johannes Secundus, and Rawson replied "to his dear and honoured patron Mr. Charles Cotton." Cotton read the Italian, French and other languages.

"D'Avila, Bentivoglio, Guicciardine,
And Machiavil the subtile Florentine,
In their originals I have read through,
Thanks to your library and unto you."

said Sir Aston Cokayne to him, and his library was well known. It was much more than "the shelf or two of volumes given to him or bought because he wanted them," as described in *The Antiquary*, March, 1901. Some still remain, *e.g.* :—*John Cleveland Revived*, 1659; Cotgraves's *French and English Dictionary*, with Cotton's notes, 1650; Flicknoe's *Enigmatical Characters*, 1665; *Sir Thomas More*, 1627; Quarles' *Divine Fancies*, 1660; a volume of *Suetonius*, 1544, given him by Lord Chesterfield; Works by John Taylor, 1630; *Rupinus Renatus*; *Reflections on Aristotle's Poesy*, 1674; *Plutarch's Lives*; these have his name in them, and several that also of his daughter Katherine.

When twenty years of age he wrote a poem on Henry, Lord Hastings, and thenceforth continued to write, with an ever abounding pleasantry and joyousness. He wrote, he says, because in the loneliness of his

Moorlands home at Beresford, he read so much. But why was he so lonely when, as we have seen, his relatives abounded on every side? His own answer was perhaps a poor compliment to some local friends. It seems to reveal ill-feeling. He wrote in 1667

“But such as I still pray I may not see
Such craggy, rough-hewn rogues as do not fit
Sharpen and set but blunt the edge of wit;
Any of which, (as fear has a quick eye)
If through a perspective I chance to spy,
Though a mile off, I take the alarm and run
As if I saw the Devil or a Dun;
And in the neighbouring rocks take sanctuary
Praying the hills to fall and cover me;
So that my solace lies amongst my grounds
And my best company's my horse and hounds.”

We can, however, well understand that the staid and thrifty members of the Beresford family would view with no friendly eye the extravagant carelessness with which the Cottons were wasting the ancient patrimony of their forefathers. Perhaps “Mad Laurence” made himself especially troublesome in Cotton’s younger days. He was a son of the John Beresford of Alstonfield who died in 1607, and was thus either a nephew or a cousin of the Laurence Beresford, whose initials “L.B. 1590.” are on Alstonfield chancel, and between whom and the Beresford Hall people, as we have already seen on page 80, there was cause for estranged feeling. Mad Laurence had been a great trouble to his unfortunate parents and, possibly in order to prevent him from wandering, they willed that he drew the instalments of his annuity in Alstonfield church porch. The maddest

trick, however, of which we have any knowledge does but illustrate the absence of the Beresford monuments from Alstonfield. Laurence buried his father with his ancestors there and recorded his name at Fenny Bentley! But we must return to our story.

When twenty-six years of age, "Charles Cotton of Barisford, Esquire, married Mrs. Isabella Hutchinson, daughter to the Lady Hutchinson of this p'sh,⁵ [S. Mary, Nottingham. The banns were] published June 1st, 8th, and 15th, 1656. Married June 30th, '56: by Ald. Tiplady, Witnesse Robert Jackson and Will. Watson." Of her he wrote

"I love her soe
That my very love creates my woe."

She was the daughter of Sir Thomas Hutchinson, of Owthorpe, Notts., by his second wife, Catherine, daughter of Sir John Stanhope, senior, of Elvaston, sister of Lord Chesterfield, and cousin to the celebrated Colonel Hutchinson, Governor of Nottingham Castle. Isabella was also sister of one of the most determined and misanthropic Roundheads of the day; and yet Cotton passed unscathed through the Cromwellian troubles, perhaps, because like many a friend of his, he not only clung to the seclusion of the Moorlands, but was nearly related to the leading rebels of the district.

This was the darkest period of the Revolution, but Cotton preferred the pen to the sword. The armour in which the Beresfords of old had sallied forth stood in the hall at Beresford amid the traces of falconry and trophies of many an exciting chase over Malbanc forest.

5 S. Mary's Register, Nottingham.

But a new trophy in the shape of Isaak Walton's fishing rod was soon to be added. For, like Bishop Ken, who had a cottage in Dovedale, and others of name and fame, Walton came into the Moorlands and was a guest at Beresford, and probably spent the stormiest days of the blackest period of the Church of England's degradation by the side of the Dove. And when the scouts of the enemy were reported from the watch-tower at Beresford, well! there were the caves! Sheldon,⁶ too, the future Archbishop and re-organizer of the Church, who was a native of Stanton and a distant relative of the Cottons through the Beresfords, came no doubt into hiding in this neighbourhood in these troublesome times. Gilbert Sheldon is sometimes spoken of as the son of a menial servant of the Earl of Shrewsbury; but this is clearly erroneous. The Sheldons were a franklyn or gentle family living near the Waterfall estates of the Beresfords, and several times intermarried with them.

The Restoration of 1660 brought re-action and called back the loyalist fugitives to London. Cotton was, we may be sure, anything but an exception to the rule;

6 In 1670 Cotton dedicated to the Archbishop a translation of Gerard's *History of the Life of the Duke of Espernon*, with an Epistle dated Beresford, 30 October, 1669. He says that the translation had been deferred by a long illness and that previous literary work had not been remunerative. His next translation, in 1674, was dedicated to the Earl of Chesterfield, another relative. This was a busy period. A share of *The Complete Gamester*, *The Fair One of Tunis*, *The Planter's Manual*, 1675, *An Ode to Winter*, "greatly admired by Wordsworth and Lamb as a triumph of jubilant and exuberant fancy," etc., followed. The first edition of *Scarronides*, or *Le Virgil Travestie*, a mock poem, which was only too successful, is dated 1664. In 1685 he published a translation of *Montaigne's Essays*, in three volumes, which is reckoned a masterpiece. Lord Halifax was delighted with its dedication to him. It was probably through Dr. Donne that Walton made the acquaintance of the Cottons. The present writer has a book which was given to Walton by Donne, his spiritual father.

and his gay life there, his tour abroad, his hospitalities and convivialities, undermined both his constitution and his fortune. He wrote with the freshness and fire of his youth, but also, alas, with the fevered corruption of that licentious age; and his need of money as time advanced made him too anxious to please the public taste. His works are therefore not for modern reading. They shock and irritate. But there was something lovable and brilliant about his genius. He was by no means an immoral or impious man. His pew in Alstonfield Church is still conspicuous; and "Squire Cotton" was for very many years a precious memory amongst the villagers who would have loathed and scorned a bad man. He was a Sabbath keeper, regarding Sunday as of too "serious account" for fishing. And he, the friend of Sandys, and the "son" of Izaak Walton, wrote of Pride and Avarice:

"I ne'er was tainted yet with either Vice;
 I never in prosperity
 Nor in the height of all my happiness,
 Scorned or neglected any in distress,
 My hand, my breast, my door,
 Were ever open to the Poor."

And again of fishing in the Dove

"Playing at liberty
 And with my Angle upon them
 The all of Treachery
 I ever learn'd to practise and to try."

Cotton loved planting and the rearing of choice fruits, and his "*Planters' Manual*" must have been a labour of love. He tried to improve his estate,⁷ and

⁷ An old letter written by Joseph Marsh, at Matlock, in 1824, shews what was

his pure joy in life by the Dove and thorough knowledge of every stone in the neighbourhood is shewn in his description of the journey to Beresford as Piscator with Viator in the ever-famous *Complete Angler*. Another sketch of a journey from London, less well known and accessible, we may quote here from his Epistle to John Bradshaw, Esquire. It shews the genial and rollicking squire as he passed through the country :

“Tuesday at noon at Lichfield town we baited,
But, there some friends, who that hour had waited,
So long detain'd me, that my charioteer
Could drive that night but to Uttoxeter.
And there, the Wednesday being Market-day
I was constrain'd with some kind lads to stay
Tippling till afternoon, which made it night ;
When from Hero's tower I saw the light
Of her flambeaux, and fanci'd as we drave,
Each rising hillock was a swelling wave,
And that I swimming was, in Neptune's spight
To my long long'd-for harbour of delight.”

The hall had been rebuilt in Tudor times, but Cotton appears to have gathered up the ruins of the fort and on the keep of the old castle rebuilt a tower,

happening at Beresford when the younger Cotton succeeded his father. It says : “Richard Marsh's father, William, was the first that came out of Lancashire. He found employ as a labourer for Mr. Cotton at Beresford. He builded the old Hurst house upon the Common or Waste as it was then ; and with the help of his lads enclosed and improved the land that lies between the Rough Sitch and Double Dytych, namely Barley Yard, Horse Park, Pringle Knowl bottom, Pringle Knowl, Longleys, the two Backside closes, Milking Pleck, Top oth Bonk, Browside, and Meadow. I will shew thee what young Mr. Bateman copied out of Alstonfield Register. 1661. 24 Feby. Baptised Richard, son of William Marsh of Beresford Hurst. This was Richard, who lived and died at Woolscote, childless. 1666 Ann. This came to be old Nann of Brownhill. 1670. Ellen. Now this was her that married Richard Bestwick, he that was so very strong and very clumsy, of whom we have heard many anecdotes.”—*MS. penes Mr. Seddon.*

nominally to hold a beacon to light him home at night : really, doubtless, to keep watch and ward. The beacon-light would be no new thing ; and the tall tower simply a debased reproduction of that which had stood there before in the days when Beresford swayed Malbanc Forest stretching away westwards. Sir Aston Cokayne wrote

“Your Basford house you have adorned much,
And Bentley hopes it shortly shall be such ;
Think on’t and set but Bentley in repair,
To both those Basfords you would show y’ heir.”

But, strange fate, though Beresford hall is now quite cleared away, a substantial tower-like corner of Bentley still stands. There Edward, the last Squire of Beresford died. The Cottons never seem to have occupied it themselves, but to have let it to Sir Symon Degge. Olive Stanhope, it will be remembered, inherited Beresford through her father and Bentley through her mother. Another portion of the large estates of her maternal grandfather, Aden Beresford, fell to the Beresfords of Newton Grange ; and a third portion went to the Beresfords of the Dale, a retired valley near Ashbourne, and thenceforth a branch of the Dale family migrated to Birchover. The old hall at Bentley, occupied by the Degges, was eventually sold by the Cottons. The “new hall” at Bentley was built and fitfully occupied by the Beresfords who had removed from Newton Grange to Ashbourne, and who have continued to bury sometimes at Bentley till the present time.

But Sir Symon Degge deserves more than a passing notice. In 1581 Joan Bagnold, niece we presume of



BACK OF BERESFORD HALL.

the famous Sir Ralph Bagnal of Leek, and sister of John Bagnolde⁸ of Alstonfield, married George Crychloe of Hartington at Alstonfield Church. Their daughter married Thomas, father of Sir Symon Degge; and Joan Bagnolde's brother John married Agnes, daughter of Richard Beresford of Alstonfield, November 5, 1583. Sir Symon had thus a manifold interest in the Beresfords when he became tenant of their old manor house at Fenny Bentley, and found it full of memorials of its former occupiers, from Thomas, the Agincourt hero, downwards. Of these treasures he made good use as we saw in our earlier pages. But again we must hark back to our story.

Beresford hall was a mansion built of the stone of the neighbourhood, with long and short free-stone quoins. Over the door and in some of the windows was the Beresford *bear rampant*. The door opened into a large hall with a fireplace at the western or left hand end of it, surmounted by antlers and curiously carved work in oak, and having three coats of arms and some inscriptions not now recoverable. At the other end three

8 The old MS. volumes in the Salt Library state that John Bagnolde of Alstonfield was Sir Ralph's nephew. Dorothy daughter of John and Agnes Bagnolde in 1605 married Richard, son of Matthew and Joan Beresford of Gateham, The latter Joan being daughter of Richard Beresford of Gateham, mentioned on page 72. This Richard and Dorothy (married in 1605) became the parents of Joan (who married Laurence Sleigh of Biggin Grange) and of the Rev. John Beresford, Rector of Radborne (who married Mary Pole of Radborne and Newborough) and also of the Rev. Dr. Richard Beresford, of Wingfield, who is well remembered by the Sleigh family. *Blome's Pedigree* is incorrect in making Richard (father of the doctor) son of Bernard. He was the second son of Matthew, of Gateham Grange, and was baptised at Alstonfield in 1577. There also his children were baptised; and there he was buried in 1645. All this is clear by comparing the Will of this Richard with Sir Symon Degge's part of the Bassano Volumes in the Salt Library, and with the Alstonfield registers.

steps led into a small room called the Green Parlour, part of which, partitioned off, was Cotton's Study.⁹ Of this he pleasantly wrote to Sir Clifford Clifton, M.P.,

“I start from my couch, where I lay dull and muddy,
 Of my servants enquiring the way to my study,
 For in truth of late days, I so little do mind it,
 Should one turn me twice about, I never should find it:
 But by help of direction, I soon did arrive at
 The place where I used to sit fooling in private.
 So soon as got thither, I straight fell to calling,—
 Some call it invoking, but mine was plain bawling:—
 I call'd for my Muse, but no answer she made me.
 I knew I there left her, and lock'd her so safe in,
 There could be no likelihood of her escaping;
 Besides had she scap't, I was sure to retrieve her;
 She being so ugly that none would receive her.
 I then fell to searching, since I could not hear her,
 I sought all the shelves, but never the nearer;
 I troubled my papers and rifled each pocket,
 Threw my books all in heaps, and kept up such a racket,
 Disordering all things, which before had their places
 Distinct by themselves in several classes,
 That who'd seen the confusion and look'd on the ware
 Would have thought he had been at Babylon fair:
 At last when for lost I had wholly resigned her,
 Where cans't thou imagine, dear Knight, I should find her?
 Faith! in an old drawer, I late had not been in,
 'Twixt a coarse pair of sheets of the Housewife's own
 spinning,
 A sonnet instead of a coif her head wrapping,
 I happily took her small Ladyship napping.
 'Why now, Minxe,' quoth I, 'What's the matter I pray,
 That you are so hard to be spoke with to day?'"

⁹ Mr. John W. Sneyd, of Basford Hall, kindly gave this description from his sick bed. The bear rampant would be introduced as the distinctive cognizance of the Newton Grange Beresfords, after Captain John bought the hall and manor.



As seen from the West. The Well, still existing, was near the S.W. corner of the building. Fragments of the garden wall remained till the removal of the ruins by Mr. Green about two years ago. The hall itself was taken down about the year 1856, by Mr. Beresford-Hope who intended to rebuild it. Some of the mullions are used in the New Tower.

The study looked south and was the nearest room to the cave, some fifty yards away. A few old yew trees remain as if to show how easy it would be to pass unobserved out of the windows of the one to the mouth of the other.

Opposite the hall door, an oaken staircase led up to a lofty drawing room and a delightfully pleasant bedroom. Other chambers were on the same floor, and above them still other rooms, with a ladder leading from a gable of the older part of the house out upon the leads of an adjunct on the north side of the hall. The house was built in the shape of the letter L, the southern range being that containing the hall and study, etc., and the western, an older range of three gables.

The bowling green was near the fishing house, which latter was thus described by Mr. White in 1784:—
“It is formed of stone and the room within is thirteen feet square and thirty feet high, paved with black and white marble. The roof, which is triangular in shape, terminates in a square stone sundial, surmounted by a globe and vane. It was originally wainscoted with walls of carved panels and divisions, in the larger spaces of which were painted some of the most interesting scenes in the vicinity of the building; whilst the smaller ones were occupied with groups of fishing tackle. In the right-hand corner stood a beaufet with folding doors on which were painted the portraits of Walton and Cotton attended by a servant boy; and beneath it was a closet, having a Trout and a Grayling delineated on the door.”

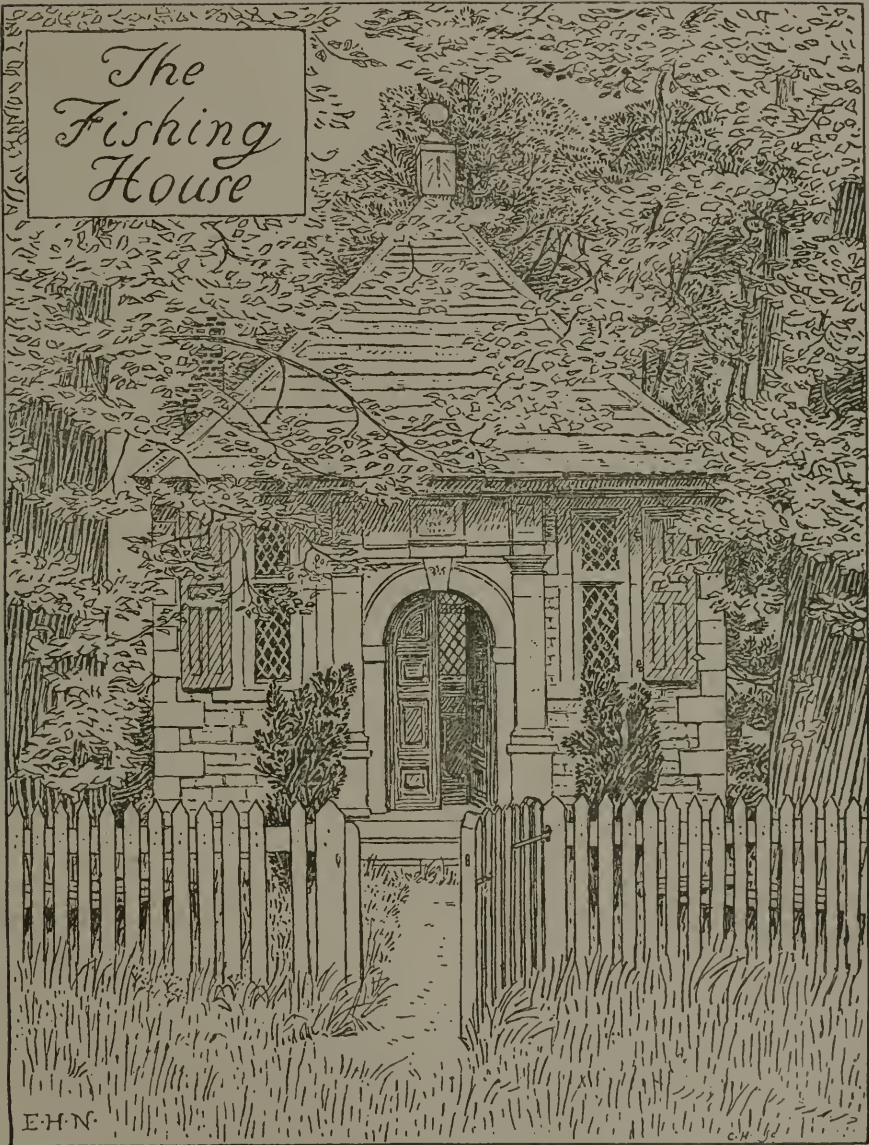
Cotton had resided at Beresford as long as his

father lived. In view of his marriage he had joined his father in 1655 in vesting the manors of Bentley, Borrowash, and Beresford, together with the Rectory of Spondon and other lands, in order to pay off a mortgage of £1,700 granted in July, 1655, by himself. This trust settled the manor of Beresford upon his father for life. But in 1658 the father died.

A few years later, namely in 1665, Cotton obtained an Act of Parliament to sell part of his estates. He dedicated a translation of Corneille's *Tragedy of Horace*, dated Beresford, 7th November, 1665, to his wife's sister, Stanhope Hutchinson, for whose private amusement it was written. Fresh Parliamentary powers of sale were obtained in 1675. The Act states that his wife was then dead;¹⁰ that he had one son and four daughters who were prevented from enjoying the advantages due to them by their father's mortgages and other debts, which, with £2,000 as his daughters' portions, amounted to £8,000. It was enacted that Cotton should retain Beresford and £40 a year. He then married Mary, Dowager Countess of Wingfield, Earl of Ardglass, whose jointure of £1,500 a year did something to brighten his lot and to delay impending ruin. But fresh fortune led to fresh extravagance. It was in 1674-5 that he built the Fishing House. His new wife was the daughter of Sir William Russell, of Strensham, Worcestershire, and by her first husband had had two children, Thomas, third Earl of Ardglass, and Mary who died

¹⁰ She was buried at Alstonfield, 26th April, 1669. Her mother lived to be one hundred and two years old. (*Reliquary*, 1868, pl. xxi.) The return to Alstonfield church as the family sepulchre seems to show that the rectorial leases were then expired.

*The
Fishing
House*



young. The Earls were descended from the Meverells of Throwley; and at that picturesque old house Cotton probably met his second wife.¹¹ Earl Wingfield, like his father and son, was buried in Ilam Church.

Cotton's two younger sons, Wingfield and Charles, both died young. The one was baptized 4th December, 1662, and buried in 1664 at Ashbourne, and the other was baptized September 26th, 1665, and buried 10th February, 1668,—in the lifetime of his first wife. The choice of the name Wingfield shews Cotton's long acquaintance with the Throwley family whose ancient home was but an easy and romantic ride from Beresford.

In April, 1659, the old connection between Beresford and Enstone had been finally severed; Cotton then sold a messuage and farm called Enson ffarme in Marson, Sandon, and Salt, for £650.

In December, 1672, he sold the ancient Waterfall estate; parting with a messuage, farm and lands to John Allcock for £360; other lands there to Nicholas Barge for £120; to Roger Smith of Cotton he sold a messuage, farm, and lands in Waterfall for £285; to Thomas Hoode of Stanton a cottage and lands in Waterfall for £21, and to Francis Fynney a messuage and farm for £185. In May, 1673, further lands in Waterfall were sold to W. Alcock for £20.

At last, in 1681, Beresford manor and manor house and lands came into the market. These were sold for £653 os. 10d.¹² to Joseph Woodhouse of Wolfscote Hall,

¹¹ She was *not* the Lady Ardglass accused of kleptomania in the Duke of Manchester's *Court and Society*.

¹² The Trustees were Charles and Beresford Cotton, W. Fitzherbert of Tissington,

hard by, and at once repurchased by John Beresford of the Newton Grange branch, who was then the head of the family. An original letter of his to Cotton is in the D. Collection of family papers (No. 314). It may illustrate the rather unfriendly spirit which seems to have lingered long between Cotton and his cousins, and which perhaps accounts for the fact that Captain John Beresford could only save the Manor of Beresford by buying it back from Mr. Woodhouse. The letter runs:—

“Hond Cosin. My concern is chiefly to crave yr pardon yt I have not wayted on you at Beresford before this. I can truly say I was brought ouer this dismall weather by an urgent affair wch has tooke up my time & attendance every day almost and forces me away this day towards Combermere to consult Sr Robt Cotton's Deeds about a contest I have with ye myners at Newton wch I hope yore goodness will excuse my omissions at this tyme whereof I am ashamed And indeed had I liberty I should be afraid (having accidentally seen Mr. Woodhouse and been informed by him of some late discourses youve had) yt you would conferre a friendly visitt . . . wch truly I was a stranger to all manner of promotion of it till he told mee, but I think myself obliged since I am so unfortunate I cannot see you to acquaint you yt if you please to propose anything of your intent to Mr. Woodhouse hee fully knows my mind in it and can informe you yt I am not unwilling of anything that can bee thought equall and reasonable to us both or at any time (now & always) to doe [so that] I may in any sense be serviceable & obliging to you, being Hond Cosin, Yor most oblig'd & faythfull Kinsman & Servant, Jo. Beresford. Cosin: I heartily congratulate you on ye disposall of yr Daughter & her late happy change is yr perfect content and satisfaction. I truly wish it may be to ye future happiness & comfort of you both.”

In the same handwriting is No. 306, a deed of lease from John Beresford, Esquire, of lands at Beresford to Thomas Sladen and John Bott, signed in the presence of Jo. Beresforde and Joseph Woodhouse, April, 1686.

The allusion to the marriage of Cotton's daughter

Charles Hutchinson of Owthorpe, and Alex. Stanhope of the Inner Temple, and possession was given at the house of Bryan Stanhope, of Derby, gent., 26 March, 1681.

reminds us that Olivia, his eldest daughter, married Dr. George Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, son of Thomas Stanhope, Rector of Hartshorn, Derbyshire. Catherine, baptized May 8th, 1664, married Sir Berkeley Lucy, of Broxbourne, Herts., third baronet. She died in 1740. Her daughter, Mary Lucy, married the Hon. Charles Compton, from whom the present Duke of Devonshire is descended. Catherine's granddaughter, Jane Cotton Compton, was the wife of Admiral Rodney; and another granddaughter, Catherine Cotton Compton, was created Baroness Arden of Lohort Castle, her husband being John, Earl of Egmont. A third daughter, Jane Cotton, married Beaumont Parkyns, of Bunny, Notts.

Much has been made of the lonely death of Cotton in London. He was buried at S. James's, Westminster, February 12th, 1688; but the fact that he was spoken of by Plot as being still of Beresford in 1686 seems to shew that he had simply gone up to London on a visit. The desolation of his last days cannot be otherwise accounted for than by the painful estrangement we have noted above.

Little is known of his son, Beresford Cotton; but that son's son, Stanhope Cotton, has left some vigorous and characteristic letters behind him which he wrote as Governor of Gibraltar in its earliest days as an English garrison. They will be found in the Egerton MSS., No. 2174, and shew not only the old masterful spirit of the Beresfords in the orders issued by the Governor that the Bishop of Cadiz was not to venture into Gibraltar for a Confirmation, and that the Jews were to take themselves out of the place, but the old gaiety

of the Cottons, in his threatening to equip an expected "Fryar" with a senora "who 'tis ten to one may prove so kind and charitable that . . . may find the Convent too hot for his worship." In 1717 an attack was expected on the Garrison, and he promised his correspondent that if the Spaniards shall be so unwary he would "divert the youths" till help could arrive. But he presently complains that "notwithstanding my aiming at being Jokeous, I do assure you I was never less inclined, having for this fortnight past been very ill, and have spit blood almost every day. And . . . I have by the last post an account that his Majesty has not been pleased to confirm my commission as Lt. Gov^t. of this place . . . So that I may very shortly have the pleasure of seeing you in England being positively resolved to desire to be recalled."

Beresford manor remained in possession of John Beresford till nearly the end of his life in 1724. He was a distinguished local politician, a J.P. for the counties of Derby and Chester, and a D.L. The manor then passed away from the family till it was bought back again in 1825 by a member of the Irish branch—Lord William Carr-Beresford, the famous general, who gave it to his cousin, Lady Beresford, as a wedding present. From her it passed to her well-known son, the late Right Hon. A. J. Beresford-Hope, by whose son again, it was recently sold to its present owner, Mr. F. W. Green, of York. We hope someday, in God's Providence, to afford fuller histories of the above three members of the family in connection with the branches to which they belong.

As we conclude these pages, the touch of Spring is freshening Beresford Dale. The river is full and the trees are just bursting into leaf. But another Spring is reviving the old manor itself, in the hands of its new master. The ruins of the hall have been cleared away, the beacon tower rebuilt, the cottage enlarged, and endless rubbish raked from under the trees on the hill. Much of the old beauty of this ancient seat has reappeared. May happiness and blessing be found there.

ADDITIONAL NOTES.

Whilst the last sheets were in the press, death carried off Mr. Samuel B. Beresford, one of the writers. He was a diligent collector of Beresford lore, and one of his last discoveries was to alight in Hall's *Nantwich* on a document which had previously escaped notice, but which confirms our conjecture on page 18 that the Hugh de Alstilfield who was man of business to Philippa de Malbanc (mother of the Countess of Warwick), was Hugh de Beveresford. In an original charter at Keele of about the year 1228, "Philippa Mauban granted to Letisce wife of Peter de Stapele land against the mill, Wichomauben. Witnesses Hugh Decino de Wichomauben, Richard de Scandeford, Hugo de Beveresford," etc.—Ormerod's *Cheshire*, III., 495.

A note on the hermitage in the rocks at Wolfscote may not be out of place here. From Mr. S. B. Beresford's notes on Hartington Registers we take the following :

- 1797. July 3. Francis Beresford of Hartington = Hannah Fogg Millington.
- 1809. May 14. Baptised Francis son of Francis and Hannah Beresford.
- 1812. March 15. Hannah, daughter of Francis and Hannah Beresford of Wolscote Rock. (In 1815 they appear to have been living on Archford Moor.)

The rock on the Staffordshire side, opposite Wolfscote hermitage, also seems to have been pierced as an observation turret for watching the Dale.

The seal attached by Canon James Beresford to the Deed which records the foundation of the two senior fellowships and scholarships of S. John's College, Cambridge, shows the rebus, as distinct from the arms, of the family. It has a bear fording a stream and going to the right hand. The ford, till of recent years, had no bridge, foot passengers going over by stepping stones, nine in number like the letters of the name "Beresford," including the stepping-off and alighting stones.

We may with advantage to some readers here quote the following remarks of General Wrottesley, namely, 1. That the hereditary offices in a Bishop's or Baron's household (pages 73, 93) were held by families of knightly rank and were considered highly honourable; 2. That there was nothing unusual in the enfeoffment of a lot of clergymen, recorded on page 54; and 3, that the fines of 39 and 40 Elizabeth, quoted in the note on page 80, were simply conveyances of land to Edward Beresford. The reading of "De Eli" on page 16, the General points out should be "Fitz Elias," as we give it later. Fitz Adam (page 15-17) he thinks was an Okeover; and he does not consider that a Forest could have had any stragetical purpose, but was wholly for sport.

Although the old volume mentioned on page 14, and quoted as to its "page 66" by Blore, has not yet been found, I observe a notice of it in Vol. I. of Bassano's Staffordshire M.S., in the William Salt Library. Written on an old pedigree of the Poles are the words: "I finde John de Beresford agrees diferancys with Richard Pole of Hartington. Ano 18 Ed III. . Vid. my Parchman cove MS. marked C. p. 66. Legh de Eginton." The date of this note would be about 1708.

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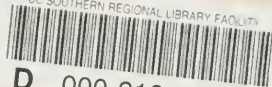


NOTE.

A few copies of PART III. (privately printed) containing Papers on the late Admiral Sir John Poo Beresford, Beresford and Wright, A recension of the Beresford Ghost Story by the Lord Primate of Ireland (Marcus G. Beresford), Fitzherbert and Beresford, and the Right Hon. John Beresford, with Portraits of Lady Betty Cobbe, the Admiral, Elizabeth (Beresford) Wright, Agnes Beresford (Lady Fitzherbert), and the Right Hon. John Beresford, may still be had post free from the
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